Daily Report

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Mercosur Summit Meeting in Montevideo Suspended

PY1911105891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2345 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Report by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Excerpt] The fact that Brazilian President Fernando Collor would have been absent from the "summit" of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries in Uruguay next month has forced the organizers to suspend it. The suspension adds a new factor of uncertainty to Southern Cone integration.

The suspension of the planned Punta del Este meeting comes eight days after the Mercosur economy ministers decided in Rio de Janeiro that the future of the common market was closely linked to Brazilian internal economic adjustments.

The Uruguay presidential meeting, scheduled for 17 and 18 December, was supposed to have analyzed the Brazilian economic situation because Mercosur implementation on 1 January 1995 depends on Brazilian economic stability.

A brief communique by the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry disseminated in Montevideo today says that the Uruguayan Government has decided—after the appropriate consultations—to postpone the Asuncion Treaty Council presidential meeting because the Brazilian president will not be able to attend.

The event most noted by analysts, however, is the willingness of the other three Mercosur member country presidents—Carlos Menem of Argentina, Andres Rodriguez of Paraguay, and Luis Alberto Lacalle of Uruguay—to hold "bilateral visits."

The arrival of Menem and Rodriguez to Punta del Este on 17 and 18 December to meet with Lacalle has confirmed the existing concern over the future of the Mercosur and the economic crisis in Brazil, the largest Mercosur partner. [passage omitted]

Uncertainty in Southern Cone Viewed

PY1911180491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0814 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Nov (EFE)—The fact that Brazilian President Fernando Collor will not attend the summit next month in Punta del Este, which led to its postponement and its replacement by a trilateral meeting of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, puts the success of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] further in doubt because of the economic instability of its main partner.

Looking beyond the official communique, which indicates that the summit was postponed because Collor "will not be able to attend," economic analysts emphasized the absence of a positive Brazilian answer to the demands of its partners for quick adjustments to prevent the Mercosur from failing.

Despite the various economic programs, first with Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso and then with the policy of current Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira, the Collor administration has not been able to give its partners any sign of stability.

The average monthly inflation rate in Brazil is 25 percent after reaching a total of 2,359 percent in 1990.

Under the program of Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, Argentina was able to lower the inflation rate from 1,832 percent in 1990 to 82 percent in the first ten months of this year.

Uruguay closed 1990 with 129.5 percent inflation rate and has announced 86 percent so far this year, and Paraguay has recorded 12 percent this year as compared to 42.5 percent in 1990.

During a meeting in Rio de Janeiro ten days ago, the economy ministers of the Asuncion Treaty said that the future of the Mercosur is closely linked with the adjustments that Brazil can make to its economy.

The presidents' meeting scheduled for next month—which was to be the first high-level evaluation of the Mercosur after the signing of the Asuncion Treaty on 26 March 1991—sought to discuss the situation in Brazil after the new inflationary spiral in that country.

The Brazilian partners will use the diplomatic resort of "bilateral visits" to meet anyway on 17 and 18 December in Punta del Este.

Regarding the integration problems, the three presidents will get the opinion of Marques Moreira in spite of Collor's absence. He believes that his country will be stabilized before Mercosur goes into operation on 1 January 1995.

Despite the repeated statements by the governments about their political determination to have the Mercosur operating on schedule, integration is being delayed by temporary difficulties as a result of the different economies of the four partners, and because of multiple technical problems. One of the problems is that Brazil has been slow in implementing a free exchange market and a better control of internal inflation.

There is also local pressure obstructing the establishment of common custom tariffs which seeks to improve production efficiency, to force international competition, and to eliminate direct and indirect subsidies on various products.

This situation was observed by Uruguayan economists who said that the Mercosur could die aborning if the economies of the main partners do not improve and if hyperinflation is not overcome.

While Argentina is showing satisfactory results, Brazil has not yet been able to do that.

The challenge is there. The hope of 200 million people in the Southern Cone has not yet died although there is a permanent fear of failure which would be just one more in over three decades of efforts for Latin American integration.

Andean Region To Become Free Trade Zone

PY1911150091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0335 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Lima, 18 Nov (EFE)—Jose Rafael Serrano, coordinator of the Cartagena Accord Board, said today in Lima that the Andean region, comprising Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, will next year become "the first free trade zone" within Latin America.

Serrano noted that this step toward integration, which will be implemented early in 1992, is the "first step" toward the consolidation of an Andean common market. The move involves eliminating restrictions and customs tariffs among the member countries.

The Andean coordinator explained that trade between the five member countries grew by 35 percent during 1991, surpassing last year's 24-percent increase.

According to the state run "ANDINA" press agency, Serrano said that the Cartagena Accord Board, the technical organization of the Andean Pact, is looking into the possibility of establishing a common external custom tariff to protect the region from third countries.

Moreover, Serrano added that the businessmen of the Andean Group, the EC and Latin America, are participating in the international industrial subcontracting fair, known as "Latin American Subcontract 91 [Subcontrata Lationamericana '91]", which opened in Lima today as part of the Pacific International Fair.

Serrano commented that this participation represents an important step toward Andean integration.

Cuba

Opposition Leader Elizardo Sanchez Interviewed

AU2011110891 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 16-17 Nov 91 p 5

[Interview with Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, leader of the Cuban opposition, by Malgorzata Mierzynska in Havana; date not given: "We Are the Tip of the Iceberg"]

[Text] [Mierzynska] Whenever in Europe there is talk of an opposition to the totalitarian regime in Cuba, some people immediately think of the pro-American right-wing opposition. Yet the social democratic opposition, which you represent and which is acquainted with the experience of European, including Polish, dissidents, enjoys a long tradition in Cuba.

[Sanchez] Indeed, these people often do not even realize that they have exerted influence on Cuba. I have in mind Polish Marxist theoreticians like Adam Schaff and Leszek Kolakowski. The book by Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski entitled *Socialism, in Other Words Bureaucracy, an Open Letter to the Polish United Workers Party Central Committee*, made a great impression on us. We first received it in the form of a typescript, and later in the form of a pamphlet published by the Fourth International and Ruedo Iberico, the Paris publishing house of Spanish refugees.

[Mierzynska] You still believe in socialism after more than eight years spent inside communist jails?

[Sanchez] I believe in democratic forms of socialism. As early as the 1960's, Kuron and Modzelewski explained that there are differences between the idea and the reality. There are very many different forms of socialism, ranging from a democratic form as in Sweden, right up to a totalitarian form as in Vietnam or Cuba. My colleagues and I started off as orthodox socialists; for a time we were even Leninists. Now, those of us that are left of the old anti-Castro socialist opposition are simply in favor of a democratic society and a democratic law-governed country. We would like people to respect other people's convictions about social justice, human solidarity, and political freedom. We would like to declare this in the press, parliament, and the universities.

In Cuba there is a danger that the pendulum effect will occur, as it has done in some East European countries. The political balance could swing completely to the right. The possibility of this increases as time goes by, because Castro is blocking democratic changes. In this way he is increasing the likelihood of a violent solution to the Cuban crisis.

[Mierzynska] Is the Castro regime still solid? Are there no signs of any reformist trends in it?

[Sanchez] I do not think there are any such trends. Some journalists from Western Europe and Latin America make the mistake of comparing the reality in Cuba to what happened in other countries in the region, e.g. Argentina, Brazil, or Chile. Yet the Cuban situation is more like the recent situation in Eastern Europe. The highest authorities think the same way as the Romanian authorities did under Ceausescu, or the Bulgarian authorities under Zhivkov. They are scared of stepping outside the boundary personally drawn by Castro. Every now and then some leader is brought to the foreground and publicized as a liberal in relation to the rest, but that is not true. Not even in their thoughts will these people exceed the limits imposed by the jefe maximo [previous two words rendered in Spanish]. At the same time, a huge number of communist party members want changes and reforms. The need for these reforms is also perceived among military circles. But there is a factor that restrains any democratic reforms. It is called Fidel Castro.

[Mierzynska] You do not think he will ever agree to dialogue?

[Sanchez] Whenever they ask us how many of us there are, we reply that we are as numerous as Sakharov and his colleagues, or Havel and the Charter 77 activists, or Kuron and Modzelewski at Warsaw University during the Gomulka period. There are probably several hundred of us, organized in many dozens of groups. We are not a large political force compared to the Communist Party, which has over 500,000 members, but we know that dissidents are only the tip of the iceberg. The huge majority of Cubans want to see changes. After all, we live in a society. We travel by bus, we stand in lines, and we know what people say and think.

[Mierzynska] What makes you think that military circles also see the need for change?

[Sanchez] We maintain contacts with them. Small groups are emerging in military circles, mainly consisting of junior officers. They are drafting their own political programs. We have received some of these documents.

[Mierzynska] Why is the opposition on the island fragmented to such a great extent?

[Sanchez] The large number of small groupings is a result of the degree of repression that is employed against us by the Castro regime. Small groupings are created because they are based around friendship and trust to prevent infiltration and repression. Recently, however, a trend toward unifying the opposition has emerged. In September of this year, we set up the Cuban Democratic Accord (CDC), which at this point already groups together 10 organizations representing most of the opposition, those groups that have survived the longest, are cohesive, and are the strongest. Moderation is a characteristic feature of the CDC, and it is pluralist, in contrast to the Democratic Coalition, which brings together more right-wing, radical organizations that maintain links with the Cuban-American Foundation in Miami, which represents the pro-American extreme right.

The Accord wishes to defend the idea of national independence. That is a basic principle that is not open to question. We also identify with the ideals of social justice. We are calling for amnesty for all political

prisoners, freedom of action for independent political associations, freedom of religion, defense of human rights, recognizing the emigre community as part of the Cuban nation, the democratization of the country, the election of parliament and the executive through general, direct elections by secret ballot. In de facto terms, the Cuban opposition is now composed of two trends: the moderate, center-left Democratic Accord and the right-wing Democratic Coalition.

[Mierzynska] What is the main difference between you?

[Sanchez] We are in favor of dialogue, a national meeting involving all tendencies, including the government. The Coalition, which is linked to emigre anticommunist, anti-Castro groups, rejects dialogue in accordance with rules that were agreed in Miami and do not envisage the participation of dissidents on the island in preparing a post-Castro alternative. The Accord rejects the idea that anyone should be able to dictate conditions. We are just as independent of Washington and Miami as we are of Castro.

[Mierzynska] So, under the CDC scenario for a new reality, there would even be a place for Castro followers?

[Sanchez] I personally do not want to exclude anyone a priori. I think that all of us as well as Fidel Castro have to submit ourselves to the will of the nation, that is, in free elections. If Castro were to obtain a majority in a democratic election, then that would have to be accepted. However, although he claims to enjoy the support of the majority of the population, he would appear to be not all that certain of this as he rejects the idea of holding free elections. If they were held, however, I have no doubt that Castro would come out of them having suffered a crushing defeat.

[Mierzynska] What role can the church play in political change in Cuba?

[Sanchez] The Christian churches in Cuba have managed to retain a certain spiritual influence over a society that has been subjected to the devastating effect of official propaganda. In light of this, now that people find themselves at a crossroads, the church represents a message that helps people to understand that there is a way out of this blind alley.

[Mierzynska] However, the Cuban church tries to stay out of politics as much as possible.

[Sanchez] It has to be remembered that the Cuban church was harshly suppressed. Hundreds of priests were imprisoned, others were forced to emigrate. For decades, there was religious discrimination. Nevertheless, the church has retained a spiritual force that will have a significant impact on society at the appropriate time.

[Mierzynska] "The appropriate time"—when will it come? People in Europe often ask how it is possible for a society that has to endure such hardship not to protest, not to vent its discontent in the streets?

[Sanchez] At the present time there is no political framework for the organization of demonstrations in the streets. There is no point in calling demonstrations, because the government applies such harsh forms of repression. However, I am convinced that there will be instances of isolated, spontaneous expressions of protest. Many people are waiting for an opportunity to express their dissatisfaction with the government and it is possible that sooner or later, some small demonstration will turn into an explosion.

Flight Schedule Reduced by Fuel Shortage

FL1911190391 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Cubana de Aviacion informs the public that as a result of the existing limitations in the country's fuel supply, and as part of the energy saving measures we have been forced to implement in this special period situation, the frequency or number of domestic flights will be reduced and adjusted beginning 1 December. We ask the public to go to the nearest Cubana de Aviacion sales office for further information.

CTC To Give Recognition for Fuel Conservation

FL2011031091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Report by Leydis Montoya Faure on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The National Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] has agreed to implement a system by which special recognition will be given to those groups and workers who distinguish themselves in the conservation of fuel by means of emulsion and magnification. Eugenio Mainegra, chief of the Basic Industry Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, made a call for the immediate implementation of these two systems under the current circumstances.

Emulsion is the mixing of a percentage of fuel with water and magnification is the passing of fuel through a magnetic field to achieve its optimum utilization, which in this case is 100 percent. Mainegra also said that Guantanamo Province has been making the most progress in this regard.

The CTC National Secretariat meeting also described as positive, the results of the meeting of Unions for Workers' Rights and Freedoms in the Face of Neoliberalism which was held in Cuba. At that meeting, Pedro Ross Leal, member of the Politburo and CTC secretary general, called on the participants to give the meeting continuity and to implement the agreements reached. The CTC National Secretariat also awarded 202 groups and 75 socialist workers brigades the title of national vanguard of the construction sector.

Construction Union Opposes Work Group 'Division'

FL1911142691 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0015 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Leydis Montoya Faure on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Speaking at a meeting of the national committee of the Construction Workers Union, Pedro Ross Leal, a member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, said that when a work group is relocated, it should be done with the entire group. That is, the brigade or contingent chiefs should remain at the head of the work groups, and the union executive and other organizations should also be moved.

During the meeting of the national committee of the Construction Workers Union, which took place at the Higher Institute of Agricultural and Livestock Sciences in Havana, Ross Leal called for a stop to the division of work groups when they are sent to work in agriculture or other activities. Ross Leal, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, also stated that with the rectification process, the construction sector has been reducing cement consumption, raising the quality of the construction projects, and developing water resources. He said that in spite of our limitations, a higher number of projects have been completed this year than last year.

The speeches by Construction Minister Homero Crabb and Construction Materials Industry Minister Jose Canete announced the priority tasks of the two organizations in coming months. Ross Leal proposed and those present at the meeting of the national committee of the Construction Workers Union agreed to request that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro create the Seventh Congress Contingent to carry out the tourism projects contracted with Basque companies in the southern area of the Isle of Youth. It was also proposed that Santiago de Cuba host Construction Workers' Day this year, while Matanzas and Camaguey would be the secondary hosts.

Havana Notes Shevardnadze Reappointment

FL2011013491 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Nov 91

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has appointed Eduard Shevardnadze as head of the Foreign Ministry. He will replace Boris Pankin. Shevardnadze was foreign minister between 1985 and 1990 when he resigned because he felt that the process of reforms was not making progress. Eduard Shevardnadze is assuming the office of foreign minister at a time when there is a strong tendency toward disintegration in the former Soviet Union.

Asturian President Holds News Conference

FL1911140391 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Juan Luis Rodriguez Vigil, president of the Principality of Asturias, has given a news conference in Havana. In his words to Cuban and foreign reporters, Rodriguez Vigil noted the talks he had with the commander in chief and other Cuban Government and party leaders, and described them as successful and respectful. He stated that the Cuban Government's major concern is to find the means to overcome a socioeconomic situation which the Asturian president described as difficult.

To a question posed by the Spanish press, Rodriguez Vigil expressed his government's willingness to organize visits by Asturians to the regions they originally came from, under the Anoranza [homesickness] program. Referring to cooperation between Asturias and Cuba, he stated the following:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] At this time, the value of the existing trade flows may be around 6 billion pesetas. I have said this from the beginning: This is not a matter of generating a target for random shots, but rather it is work that will have a broad impact on the future. You will understand that this is not only my opinion, but is shared by many people in Spain. I believe that the more relations we have with Cuba, the better things will be for Spaniards and Cubans. [end recording]

Later, Laura Gonzalez, president of the Asturian Parliament, gave exclusive statements to the Cuban television.

[Begin recording] [Laura Gonzalez] I think that our two aims have been fulfilled: maintaining relations with our Asturian communities—this was very moving, very emotional—and maintaining relations which I hope will become broader, more stable, and concrete; relations in trade, culture, and—why not—affection for the Cuban people.

[Reporter Niurka Gonzalez] One last question. Before you came here, you had an idea of the situation in Cuba. Now that you are here, have you confirmed that idea, or have you changed your opinion? Just a brief answer.

[Laura Gonzalez] We have been here too few days to become really familiar with the Cuban situation. It would be irresponsible of me to give an evaluation, but I would like to sum up in a few words what I think of Cuban society. If there is a word that defines the state of mind of this society, it is dignity. I wish that all Third World peoples, all South American or Latin American peoples, had the dignity, spirit of struggle, and sense of honor the Cuban people have. This is an impression I got in the street, not in official relations, but in the street, with the people. I can give a very clear example. I saw three children in the street. I gave them two or three pieces of candy I happened to have in my purse, as I would have done in Spain, for no other reason. They were carrying an orange, and they gave it to me. [end recording]

Castro Bids Farewell to Asturians

FL1911140791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1202 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Juan Luis Rodriguez Vigil Rubio, the president of the Principality of Asturias, and the delegation that accompanied him during his visit to Cuba, departed early this morning to return to Spain. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, accompanied them to the Jose Marti International Airport in Havana. Other high-ranking Cuban Government and Communist Party of Cuba officials were also present.

During their visit to our country, the members of the delegation had a full schedule that included visits to centers of historic, cultural, and social interest, meetings with Asturians residing in Cuba, official meetings, and trade negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Castro] I hope you have a nice trip.
[Rodriguez] Thank you very much.
[Castro] Thank you for your visit. Have a nice trip. [end recording]

Robaina Returns From Two-Week Visit to Spain

FL2011033591 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] The Cuban delegation, headed by Roberto Robaina, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists [UJC], has returned to Cuba upon completing an important tour of various Spanish regions. In Barcelona, Robaina attended the Cuban exhibit: This is the Way We Are, which displayed Cuban growth in all aspects of economic and social life, mainly in public health, tourism, and education.

During the two-week visit, Robaina met with political and other leaders, and Spanish students. The visit of the Cuban delegation unleashed a wave of solidarity. The delegation received a donation of medicine valued at $10,000 made by a Galician family, as well as office supplies, paper for JUVENTUD REBELDE, among other expressions of support for our revolution.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What were the basic results of this trip, of the meetings of the UJC in Barcelona and other Spanish regions?

[Robaina] Well, I believe that the results were very positive. I believed we achieved our basic goal. In places where the campaign against the revolution is very strong and is broached at the main forums, we were able to take the voice and presence of the UJC. This was done thanks to those who gave us the support and economic aid that our country does not have. The UJC did not go there only to explain what the Cuban youths are doing. During this visit, this meeting, this exchange, we presented our best argument, which is the work the people themselves are carrying out, and the important changes made during the Fourth PCC Congress. Abroad, in the area we visited, in particular, there is much disinformation regarding this matter. We must fight with our voice and actions against this campaign. This simply proves that we cannot overlook an opportunity to present our cause.

We did this and, above all, we found a deep feeling of friendship for our cause, and respect for those who maintain with dignity a position like the one our people maintain.

Simply said, we were able to confirm this and in some ways we were able to modestly fulfill the role we were assigned. To try to interpret the people's feelings is the best of missions. [end recording]

Central Banks' Conference Opens in Havana

PA1911220591 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Marianela Sanper]

[Text] The 20th Conference on Systematization of Central Banks in America and the Iberian Peninsula opened in Havana on 18 November. Representatives from 20 countries and 24 international banking and financial institutions are attending the important event, which Cuba is hosting for the first time. The purpose of the conference is to exchange ideas and experiences in the fields of telecommunications, security and control, systems development and implementation, and new technologies. Osvaldo Fuentes, the first vice president of the National Bank of Cuba, welcomed the professionals at the inaugural ceremony:

[Begin Fuentes recording] It is impossible to visualize any aspect of the economic or financial field without highlighting the importance of systematization in the implementation of the most advanced procedures that will allow us to be more efficient, now and in the future. That is why this meeting is so important. The agenda is comprehensive, with topics ranging from the organization of computer functions and strategic planning in computer activities to the most elaborate considerations regarding telecommunications and debates on the newest and most advanced technologies. [end recording]

Fuentes asserted that Cuba had been establishing computer systems in various banking activities for many years. He added that Cuba currently has several systems with which it processes most of its information. Fuentes said that more than 90 percent of the local banking operations and 100 percent of the international services are automated with our own software. [previous word in English]

[Begin Fuentes recording] Another advancement has been the incorporation of our bank into the international system [word indistinct]. To this end, we have had to update our own software [previous word in English], and it merited the approval of this international institution. This has ensured the permanence of our system and will allow us to advance to the next phase. We are sure our meeting will be fruitful. We will contribute with concrete actions to the integration

process, which our forefathers attempted and which now has more possibilities than ever before. [end recording]

The 20th Conference on Systematization of Central Banks in America and the Iberian Peninsula will meet for five days, and the representatives will discuss 16 related reports. These debates will make the institutions attending the conference more efficient. The participants are also scheduled to visit the Institute of Genetic Engineering and Technology, the University of Havana's school of mathematics, and other centers of historic and social interest.

German Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

PA1911154991 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] A German parliamentary delegation arrived in Havana on 18 November at the invitation of the Cuban National Assembly of the People's Government. The group is presided over by Tourism Commission member Michael Jung and includes six deputies from different German political parties. During their stay on the island the deputies will meet Communist Party of Cuba and Cuban Government leaders and will visit economic and tourist sites in several Cuban provinces.

Namibian Group Arrives for Quadripartite Meeting

FL1911180591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The delegation from the Republic of Namibia that will attend the 11th quadripartite meeting has arrived in our country. The delegation is headed by Deputy Minister for Security Peter Tshirumbu. It is also composed of Tuliameni Kalomo, the Namibian ambassador to the United States; General (Eyandima), deputy director of police; (M. Ndalula), deputy director of finance; and (Zeita) of the Ministry of Security. The meeting will be held on 21 and 22 November with the participation of Angola, Cuba, Namibia, and South Africa; and with the USSR and the United States as observers. The meeting's agenda was drawn up, based on hearing about the progress of the New York agreements on peace in southwestern Africa.

Haiti

French Ambassador Leaves for 'Consultations'

PA2011032191 Paris AFP in Spanish 0210 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 19 Nov (AFP)—AFP has confirmed that Jean Raphael Dufour, the French ambassador to Haiti, left Port-au-Prince for Paris on the evening of 19 November.

The diplomat, who took a regular weekly Air France flight, has been summoned by his government "for consultations" after being declared "persona non grata" on 17 November by the provisional Haitian Government.

In statements to a foreign news agency, Dufour had described the members of the military who toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as "cowards willing to pack their bags and flee."

The current Haitian authorities felt that those words "were an attack on the honor of national institutions."

Meanwhile, the French Government has decided to bolster its diplomatic presence in Port-au-Prince by sending a ranking Foreign Affairs Ministry official.

Herve Ladsous, who traveled to Haiti in June to attend the meeting of the Haitian-French Joint Cooperation Commission, is already in Port-au-Prince.

MIDH Leader Supports French Envoy's Recall

FL1911193891 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Marc Bazin, leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], finds the request for recall of the French ambassador justifiable. According to Bazin, it is only the French ambassador himself who is responsible for the recall because of his passionate, personal attitude toward the country's crisis. His behavior is not calm and lacks objectivity. Bazin does not believe that the government made a hasty decision. If the provisional government had not made such a decision, the French ambassador would have considered the country his private property.

Bazin added that the decision was justified and appropriate because the French ambassador favored one group against another.

Parliament Refuses To Negotiate With OAS

FL1911234591 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1840 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Jean-Marie Ferari from the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince]

[Text] We are now in the Senate where we have just learned that there should be no problem for the continuation of negotiations. According to Senate President Dejean Belizaire, they have received a letter from the OAS inviting them to go to Cartagena, Colombia, that the Senate president has been invited to go to Cartagena to continue the negotiations. But according to what we have learned from the upper chamber, from Senate President Dupiton and the negotiators, this is out of the question. They said that the parliamentarians will not go as long as the OAS does not lift the embargo. It would be best to have you listen to an excerpt of what Senator Eddy Dupiton told us this morning.

[Begin recording] [Ferari] The people are waiting; they are waiting to see if the negotiations are going to continue. You are supposed to have authority in the negotiations. You initiated the negotiations. How much progress has been made? Has the OAS contacted you?

[Dupiton] Well, I believe the Senate president has received an invitation to go to Cartagena to negotiate. The president is sure. He knows the position of the parliamentarians who are the representatives of the Haitian people. He has said that there will be no negotiations as long as the embargo is not lifted or eased. The president said that a negotiation while the sword of Damocles is held to the Haitian people's stomach—a sword that has begun to create all sorts of problems for the Haitian people—is out the question.

You have been out on the streets. I believe you have seen the effects of the gasoline problem. The people cannot continue like this and the president will not leave the people in these circumstances. We must make sure that when we go [to Cartagena], the people can breathe, eat, and drink without having to have peace on their minds. That is the condition being put on the negotiations.

[Ferari] Does this mean that you are very sure that a negotiation is out of the question as long as the embargo is not lifted, at least partially?

[Dupiton] Yes. We wanted to show our goodwill. We did not move away from the negotiating table and we talked with the OAS representatives even though we had much legal evidence to prove to them that the Haitian people did not asked for this. It was a measure taken arbitrarily. They have always said that the measures against Haiti were adopted by 34 sovereign countries. Given the way the situation developed and in light of the situation that prompted it, and because we are responsible people who are managing state affairs, who care for people, who do not want them to become victims, who realize that the persons elected to the parliament are responsible persons who realize how delicate the situation is, we were forced to continue negotiating until that joint communique [by the parliament and OAS Representative Augusto Ramirez Ocampo] was issued. [end recording]

Listeners of Radio Nationale, this is a new element in the negotiations. We just heard Senator Dupiton's opinion. The Senate, the parliamentarians, will not negotiate as long as the OAS does not lift the embargo. We also asked him if the parliamentarians are optimistic; if there is a possibility that the OAS will lift the embargo tomorrow or the day after tomorrow so that, in the next few days—let us say Thursday or Friday—the parliamentarians will continue the negotiations. But we will keep you in suspense. You will have more information later in our next newscast.

Anti-Aristide Demonstration in Cap-Haitien

FL1911220491 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1230 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by correspondent Jean-Baif Fils-Aime in Cap-Haitien]

[Text] On 18 November, a Te Deum mass was celebrated in the Cap-Haitien Cathedral to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Vertieres and the Haitian Armed Forces Day. The main celebrant of this Te Deum mass was Reverend Father Robert Saint Vil. Also present at this ceremony were Rene [name as heard] Piquion, the provisional government's information minister; Monsignor Francois Gaillot, the Cap-Haitien archbishop; and numerous monsignors and fathers. At the end of the Te Deum mass, military honors were paid in front of the cathedral and there was a military parade throughout the city.

Several hundred people demonstrated in the streets of Cap-Haitien on 18 November. This demonstration began in front of the cathedral, following the conclusion of the Te Deum mass. The people shouted: No to embargo; No to Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return; Up with the Army; Up with General Cedras; and Up with the Americans. [sentence as heard]

Bernardin Views Army Serving Population Needs

FL1911225691 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 2000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Today, in recognition of Haitian Armed Forces Day celebrated on 18 November, Renaud Bernardin, planning minister in the Aristide-Preval government, advocates an Army which rather than being repressive serves the masses. In a communique issued to the press, Bernardin expresses the wish that, in this light, the Army health service should participate in the struggle against diseases, the engineering corps should assist in maintaining roads, and the military communications unit should become involved in solving communication problems in the regions where services are lacking.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Announces General Elections for 16 Dec

FL1911160391 Bridgetown CANA in English 1507 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 19, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R Robinson on Monday night announced general elections for December 16, the expiration date of the present mandate of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

In a five-minute national broadcast on radio and television, Robinson said nomination day would be December 6. He said he had advised President Noor Hassanali earlier in the day to dissolve Parliament and the writs for the elections would be issued on Tuesday.

The announcement of the election date—which is also Robinson's birthday—came one day after a poll published by the EXPRESS newspaper favoured the NAR to be re-elected for a second five-year term. The NAR captured 33 of the 36 parliamentary seats in the December 1986 general election, to end the 30-year rule of the People's National Movement (PNM). The PNM placed second in the poll with 18 percent support among respondents, compared with 25 percent for the NAR.

El Salvador

Government Issues Communique on Jesuit Case

PA2011035791 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 19 Nov 91 pp 4, 21

[Text] The Salvadoran Government issued a communique on 18 November declaring that statements and accusations against high- ranking officers of the Armed Forces regarding the Jesuit case are manipulative and based purely on speculation.

The government report reads as follows:

"1. The government has acted in strict compliance with the law by supporting a legal process that has conducted investigations over the past two years to determine, based on the available evidence, responsibility for the crime.

"2. Since the beginning of the case, the government has reiterated that anyone with conclusive evidence regarding another persons' responsibility for the crime should present it to the Salvadoran courts. These courts are the only bodies entitled to handle the case.

"Despite this request, persons or groups have issued public statements and accusations outside the courts with the obvious intention of politically manipulating and attacking members of the Armed Forces and the institution itself. This has been done irresponsibly, without justification, and based on pure speculation.

"3. In October, a competent penal judge presented the accused and the evidence related to the case before a court of conscience. A verdict was reached and those whom the jury found guilty were sentenced.

"4. The Government of the Republic reiterates that Salvadoran courts are open to everyone who has evidence regarding the case. These people are asked to avoid making public accusations and to present their evidence to the competent judge so justice may be fairly administered."

Communique Rejects U. S. Charges Against Ponce

PA1911150691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1420 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government today rejected the charges made by a U.S. Congress commission against Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce and other high-ranking officers, charging them with responsibility for the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women in 1989.

An official communique asserts that a report filed by that commission headed by Democratic Congressman Joseph Moakley "has been drafted with absolute irresponsibility, is completely unfounded, and based on pure speculation responding to interests."

Ponce Rejects Charges

PA2011005791 San Salvador Radio Cadena Cuscatlan in Spanish 2123 GMT 19 Nov 91

[News conference by General Rene Emilio Ponce, Salvadoran defense minister, with unidentified reporters in the conference room of the Armed Forces Joint Staff in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....regarding the use of reports [words indistinct] issued on 1 November 1991 on the participation of some High Command members and high-ranking officers of the Salvadoran Armed Forces in a meeting allegedly held at the Military School on the afternoon of 15 November 1989, we consider it opportune to make this clarification:

1. Just as Congressman Moakley has stated, he was designated a member of a special commission to investigate the murder of the Jesuit priests. In its first report, the commission theorized on a plot. This theory pointed to the possibility that members and high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces had masterminded the crime. This theory is based on the Armed Forces' existing chain of command.

2. Investigators from police organizations of international prestige, such as Scotland Yard, the FBI, and the Spanish police, participated in the investigations from the outset. Congressman Moakley has acknowledged that the Salvadoran Commission for the Investigation of Crime performed very efficient police work. It has not been established, directly or indirectly, that other high-ranking officers participated in or ordered the murder of the Jesuit priests.

3. Congressman Moakley bases the report's new charges on alleged tips from informers and Armed Forces members who were reportedly at the Military School on the afternoon of 15 November 1989 and learned of a meeting held at the school where the decision to perpetrate the crime was made.

4. Out of respect for the Salvadoran people and as responsible military men, we want to say this:

A. We flatly reject these irresponsible accusations, which are based on simple speculations devoid of any evidence and on statements made by unidentified witnesses. Because the witnesses' testimony is rendered groundless by the fact that they are unidentified, it is legally impossible to draw conclusions that lend veracity to the accusations made.

B. It is absolutely illogical for people who were allegedly at the Military School on the afternoon of 15 November 1989, when the meeting reportedly was held, but who did not attend the meeting, to know what was debated and decided therein.

C. Congressman Moakley, in his desire to incriminate high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces and persisting in the stand he adopted in the beginning because he

probably does not want to admit how wrong he is, has insisted on the accusation, disregarding the moral and professional harm he is inflicting on us, both as people and as members of the institution to which we are proud to belong.

Because of all of this, the report indicates the case's politicalization, the meddling in our country's domestic affairs, and the disregard for national dignity. In addition, the report has been issued at a very delicate time in the country's institutional life and in the current peace process. We reserve the right to make use of the means provided by law to defend ourselves from our detractors.

Gentlemen, this was the communique issued by the Defense Ministry. You may now ask as many questions as you like.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Yes. Since the beginning of 1990 we have stoically resisted repeated baseless attacks by the Moakley Commission, based on unconfirmed reports, in the belief that the commission's purpose was to seek justice in this case. We have noticed during these two years, however, that this has followed U.S. domestic political agendas. Why do I say this? The Moakley Commission reports coincide with domestic political events—for example, in 1990 when a decision on U.S. military aid to El Salvador was about to be made. Another report was issued in January five days after two U.S. pilots were murdered. Now a report has been issued just when peace is at hand. We cannot understand why the United States tries to weaken the Army with these sorts of accusations when we are on the last leg of the road to peace in El Salvador.

There are definitely two components to this. One component is a very fair and positive impulse to seek justice in this case. However, we also see a great purge that corresponds to U.S. domestic agendas.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Pardon me?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] As citizens we must take different types of actions, and we are not going to be relieved of this obligation at this moment.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I do not believe the government could make the communique it issued on 17 November any clearer. The communique was made public through the media last night and was published in the newspapers today. We have full support.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] If anyone has any real proof of the involvement of others, they should present the evidence to the appropriate courts and not turn this case into a purge of the Armed Forces by going to the media. I want to specifically refer to this report. The report says that the possibility exists that high-ranking military officers may have masterminded the crime. When you hear the news, however, it appears as if the report accuses Armed Forces members of involvement in the case. There is a difference. When the report is discussed publicly in the media, it is not to seek justice, but to make politics, and politics that have a [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] That is a question you may address to this gentleman in due course.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Excuse me, only one question at a time please.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I believe in the separation of branches of government. The judicial branch is responsible for these investigations. The Legislative Assembly president has already said very clearly that they will not become involved with the work of other government branches.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] It is not a matter of lack of resolve or whether one wants to or not. If there is convincing proof and there are witnesses to clearly present it, then the justice system itself will summon those accused and one has to appear.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I base what I say on the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] communique. The communique says to unilaterally suspend offensive actions in urban areas and sabotage of the economy. It is important to note how they themselves recognize that these hostilities make all Salvadorans suffer.

[Ponce] The FMLN also says it wishes to carry out all necessary efforts to extend this suspension until the definitive cease-fire is signed.

This is what is most important. We must take the FMLN's word because what the Salvadoran people really need the war to finally end.

In that sense, I believe that we must take the FMLN's word. Unfortunately, some rebels ambushed us on 18 November. [Words indistinct] They have been attacking several positions. They placed an explosive device on an electricity post on Venezuela Avenue. Thank God it did not go off. There are some situations that even they cannot control.

In that sense, the important thing is that we see the positive side of seeking the cease-fire [words indistinct]. If that will contribute to the search for peace [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] We have to look back into history. This conflict was not started by the Armed Forces, and the aggression against the Salvadoran people are not carried out by the Armed Forces but by the FMLN. If the FMLN stopped all types of attacks, there would definitely be no reaction from our side. We have a constitutional mandate to fulfill and we will continue to do so.

Your question is very timely because now I can tell the Salvadoran people to trust the Armed Forces to continue to fulfill their constitutional duty.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] That is something we have also stated before. Between 11 and 16 November there was shooting everywhere in the capital. The problem was also becoming more acute in San Miguel, Usulutan, Sacatecoluca, and Chalatenango. We could not think of anything other than defending the system, the people, and the established government.

Regarding ourselves as a chain of command, we were preparing the agenda and the topics for the meeting of commanders held between 1830 and 2230 on 15 November with all the joint chiefs of staff to be able to solve that problem. We could not even imagine thinking of the Jesuits.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I categorically deny that because I was not present at the military school. I was at a command post at the offices of the joint chiefs of staff.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Lets get one thing straight: It is not a truce but a unilateral cease-fire by the FMLN.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] A truce may or may not entail an agreement, (?or it may result when both sides have almost reached an agreement). Here we have a situation in which someone is saying: I should really do this.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] There is no agreement.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] There must be an agreement. (?The decision can be made) unilaterally, but the real difference in this case is that we are approaching a definitive cease-fire. We must not fall prey to the FMLN dialectic of establishing truces, truces, and more truces.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I believe that sabotage against the power system has been suspended, which is important. Offensive actions such as attacks on positions on the outskirts of San Salvador have also been suspended, (?and terrorism by urban commandos, also). One can feel that (?these operations) have decreased. There may be individuals, however, who disagree with this situation. They may seek their own solutions. For example, we have a document issued by the National Army for Democracy. This document imposes war taxes ranging from 50 to 150,000 colones on the coffee farm owners in San Salvador. They (?have asked for as much as) 400,000 colones. They are doing the same thing in the eastern part of the country. They are taking advantage of the situation, committing extortion to acquire funds for their own purposes.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] We must clearly understand our current situation. The situation in El Salvador is eminently political: the military apparatus has been significantly decreased and the Armed Forces (?must adhere) to the decisions of this country's duly established political sector.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] I want to be optimistic. There are various reasons why I am optimistic. I have followed this entire pacification process very closely, and I hope that between 12 and 15 December we will achieve peace. We may achieve a definitive cease-fire due to internal and external conditions. I believe that the time for violence in the country has passed. I also believe that the FMLN is convinced that [words indistinct] the conflict, [words indistinct] for the fatherland.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Yes. The two military men who were sentenced. There is a procedure in the [word indistinct] code that orders us to immediately dismiss from the Armed Forces any soldier who is sentenced. The other cases are pending, and we will take action according to the judge's resolution.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ponce] Let's be clear on this. The negotiation process is seeking to definitively end the Salvadoran conflict. That means and tacitly implies the disarming and demobilization of the FMLN as an armed group and its incorporation into the everyday political, democratic, and civilian life of El Salvador.

As a military institution, we have an obligation and mission to maintain the territorial integrity of El Salvador. In this respect, we cannot under any circumstances accept the existence of areas controlled by the FMLN. That is why the Armed Forces can be found all over the country, and you know it as well as I do. You have been able to travel to the areas I just mentioned. If a political decision is made by the legally established government, then the Armed Forces will honor it. At this time, President Cristiani's government has made no decision.

Country Reacts to U.S. Congress Report

PA1911153891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1417 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Nov (NOTIMEX)—After learning about the report issued by the U.S. Congress involving high-ranking officers of El Salvador military command in the massacre of Jesuit priests, the government said the charges must be proven before the local courts.

According to a communique, the first official reaction to the accusations, the government of Alfredo Cristiani said the Salvadoran authorities "are the only ones suitable to hear the case."

The president made a call to "avoid personal public accusations."

THE NEW YORK TIMES, a U.S. newspaper, revealed last weekend that the document issued by the Congress includes the names of several officers of the Armed Forces involved in the crime, which took place in San Salvador on 16 November 1989.

Generals Rene Emilio Ponce, current defense minister; Juan Rafael Bustillo, former Air Force commander; Orlando Zepeda, deputy defense minister; and two colonels were mentioned in the "Moakley" Commission report as supposedly being implicated in the crime.

According to the newspaper, the congressmen based their charges on "circumstantial evidence," which pointed to the military officers as being responsible for planning and for ordering the murder of the six Jesuit priests and two of their housekeepers.

Without going into further detail, the Salvadoran Government's document notes that since the beginning of the investigation "persons or groups have publicly made irresponsible statements or charges against Armed Forces members."

According to the official document, the statements were made "outside of the tribunals, based on speculative, unfounded remarks with the intent of exerting political manipulation."

"The government has always acted according to the law, supporting judiciary proceedings which have been carried out for more than two years in an effort to determine, according to the evidence, who was responsible for the crime," he stated.

Ruben Zamora, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, proposed that the parliament open an investigation based on the U.S. report because he feels that after the report "the case will become a very serious political problem."

The Company of Jesus—which thus far has not announced its position—has reiterated that the masterminds of the massacre "are still in the Armed Forces High Command."

Ruben Zamora Says Report 'Political'

PA1911161091 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] Commenting on a U.S. congressional report linking General Rene Emilio Ponce, defense and public security minister, to the murder of six Jesuit priests and two of their maids in San Salvador; Dr. Ruben Zamora, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, said that those revelations go beyond the strictly legal sphere. This problem has taken on political characteristics, which the country must handle, the leftist politician said.

[Begin Zamora recording] Congressman Joseph Moakley, who led the team that has followed the Jesuit case all these years, has made very serious statements in the United States, which THE NEW YORK TIMES carried yesteday on its front page. He gave the names of a group of high-ranking Salvadoran officers who made the decision at a specific meeting to kill the Jesuit priests. The report mentioned full names, places, and dates.

I find this extremely grave, and I think we must review it here with utmost attention and seriousness. I believe that we would have to read the document and his remarks. I have not yet read them, but will get hold of them in a few hours, and I will be able to assess the situation. These remarks go beyond the strictly legal sphere. The Jesuits' murder trial under the country's judicial system has made the results known to all. For this reason, this matter is a far-reaching political problem and our country must handle it that way. [end recording] If there is sufficient evidence, the implicated officers can be put on trial again. This matter, however, must be first handled politically, he said.

[Begin Zamora recording] If there is sufficient evidence a trial can be held again. I feel, however, that we must handle the situation in a political manner because it has acquired a political characteristic. We have a defense minister accused by a U.S. lawmaker, who has followed the whole trial and conducted an investigation. Moakley represents the leadership of the U.S. Congress. [end recording]

Referring to recent clashes in the general area of Cuscatlan, Zamora called them a blow to the process of negotiation and peace. The clashes stem from the government's failure to give a clear response to the unilateral truce ordered by the guerrillas, he said. Zamora made those remarks within the framework of the Second Habitat and Social Change Congress, called "Peace, Reconstruction, and Low-Income Housing."

Jesuit Case Lawyer Criticizes U.S. Congressman

PA1911184991 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] On 18 November, the defense lawyer in the Jesuit case said that U.S. Congressman Joseph Moakley had tried to blackmail the officers involved in this case and was now making speculative charges by attempting to involve other Army officers in the case. Lawyer Carlos Mendez Flores believes Congressman Joseph Moakley is trying to hide his failure in the investigation of the Jesuit case by making these charges. He said Moakley has been unable to legally substantiate his charges and is now attempting to save face at any cost by making assumptions and damaging the high command of the Salvadoran Armed Forces as much as possible. Mendez added that, without any restraint, the congressman had asked the arrested officers involved in this case to confess, in exchange for some kind of pardon, who had ordered the murder of the Jesuits. The defense lawyer claimed that this was a case of blackmail.

[Begin Mendez recording] Mr. Moakley has even tried to blackmail several people involved in the case. He told them they would be helped if they pointed out the people [who had ordered the murder of the Jesuits]. These people clearly told him that nobody else was involved and that they knew nothing more. Thus, these are all mere assumptions. What is interesting is that the jury itself was told that there were people who could lose their jobs. Congressman Moakley was one of the people in charge of explaining—and perhaps, he truly believed—that they could come here and take action on all our judicial processes. That is why we have called this the sovereignty trial. We think they [not further identified] continue to be interventionist. A trial was held and if they had something to contribute they only had to follow the law. That is what institutions are for. They can present evidence if they have it. They should not come here with speculations because that will only cause [word indistinct]. We believe the only thing they want is to justify their failure by trying to intervene. Fortunately, our nation and sovereignty continue to be respected. [end recording]

Lawyer Mendez added that the defense had proven that a commanders' meeting was held but that only military matters, concerning the guerrilla presence in San Salvador, had been discussed. He added that President Alfredo Cristiani had also been present at the Armed Forces Joint Command Staff meeting on 15 November. He said:

[Begin Mendez recording] If I am not mistaken, he [not further identified] was present at the 15 November commanders meeting. So was General Bustillo and, if my memory does not fail me, even the Armed Forces General Commander and the President of the Republic were at the meeting. However, at no time did they talk about any situation [word indistinct] or mission. They only talked about military matters. [end recording]

The lawyer, who obtained the freedom of more than half of the soldiers charged with this crime, stated that the U.S. congressman's new charges do not merit any investigation. He added that what must be ascertained is the self-determination of Salvadoran law.

Political, Military Sources on FMLN Announcement

PA1911213591 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] Political and military sources consulted on 15 November said that international pressure, the government's report on Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] terrorism at the United Nations, popular condemnation, and the government's firm position to withdraw from the negotiating table if attacks continue were factors that forced subversive leaders to "suspend" their "offensive actions" beginning 16 November.

Our sources were cautious when commenting on the sincerity of the proposal of the FMLN, which has broken all its promises in the past.

The sources pointed out that the "suspension" of terrorist actions should not be confused with a "cease-fire," because it is only a tactical move that does not fully commit the FMLN.

They added that "the easiest thing to do at this moment would be to provoke the Armed Forces and government to justify a resumption of hostilities and expose them before the world as being warmongering."

The sources stated that in general terms the "suspension" is just another "truce," such as those that FMLN leaders have announced in the past and have eventually broken.

They added that the suspension of violence should not only include acts of armed terrorism, but other forms of intimidation conducted under the disguise of labor causes.

The Armed Forces abstained from issuing an official opinion on the FMLN announcement. The military leaders that were consulted said that the High Command supports President Cristiani's position.

One of these military leaders said that the Armed Forces will monitor the behavior of leftist groups because, in keeping with the way they operate, it is possible that they might try to provoke the Army and claim later that they were acting in self-defense.

They also recalled that the Armed Forces, in compliance with the Constitution, will continue to guarantee the safety of Salvadorans by fighting all groups that operate outside the law.

The sources added that "it could be that the FMLN leadership is setting a trap, and as suggested by secret documents seized in the past few days, preparing another of its famous offensives in the capital in an attempt, according to them, to gain ground that they will later claim to be conquered territories."

Regarding political issues, the sources indicated that the FMLN decision first responds to international interests to distract world attention from the difficult situation facing Nicaragua where the Sandinists are trying to boycott the government of Violeta Chamorro; second, to the situation in Cuba where Fidel Castro, the last communist in the world, is trying to jockey for position and cannot afford to let the FMLN tarnish his image; and third, to U.S. and Soviet pressure at various levels.

Our sources said that all this led to the announcement by the FMLN leaders, who after being criticized for being destructive terrorists, are now posing as "champions of peace."

"The government and the Armed Forces must be very careful; they must not show enthusiasm toward the communists' position," our sources added.

Rebels Challenge Government To Start Truce

PA1911185991 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Report by Alexis Diaz]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has demanded that the government and the Salvadoran Armed Forces match the peace gesture of an indefinite unilateral truce, which began on 16 November, whereby the FMLN ended offensive military operations and nationwide sabotage on the economy. Commander (Jerson) Martinez, a founding member of the FMLN Political Committee, which operates clandestinely in the country, has said that the government and the Army have a political, moral, and historic obligation to conduct actions conducive to peace, and for that reason they must match the guerrillas' decision to end hostilities.

[Begin Martinez recording] The FMLN considers that its unilateral—first of its kind— announcement that it was ceasing hostilities constitutes a daring gesture that may have baffled the government and its military structure. They must imitate the FMLN's patriotic attitude. This is a moral, political, and historic obligation. Undoubtedly, this is no longer a matter of winning the war. This is now a matter of attaining a cease-fire; this is now a matter of attaining peace for all. I hope the war becomes a thing of the past. That is the challenge we issue to the government. [end recording]

The guerrillas made the cease-fire decision because it realized that neither side can win the war militarily, the rebel commander stressed. If the government and the Armed Forces still believe that the FMLN's unilateral truce is insufficient to clear the way for peace, they must compete with the guerrillas to see which side contributes more to the attainment of peace.

[Begin Martinez recording] The FMLN wants to join the masses in its demand to President Cristiani and his military command to match the FMLN decision and give a clear signal that they love the country, by paving the way to military and social peace. If one were to issue a challenge, it would be to dare the government to engage in a constructive competition where one imitates the other to see who contributes the most to peace and the country. We challenge the government. The next move is up to them. [end recording]

The guerrilla leader said that the FMLN took a decisive step toward peace by unilaterally halting military and sabotage operations, which is why it is up to the government to assume its role and pave the way for peace in the country. Martinez credited the FMLN for opening the process of dialogue and negotiations as its struggle forced the government to sit down to negotiate peace. He added that the unilateral truce is historic because it will lead to the signing of the final cease-fire.

Modesto Ramirez Central Front Issues Communique

PA1911230091 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Communique issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, from Guazapa Hill, El Salvador on 18 November]

[Text] The Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front operating on Guazapa Hill makes the following announcement to the Salvadoran people and the international community:

1. The forces of the National Army for Democracy, which operate on this hill, have strictly obeyed the decisions made by our general command to suspend all offensive actions against the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the government.

2. The Armed Forces and the Salvadoran Government have responded to this goodwill gesture with a forceful operation by the Atlacatl Battalion and the 1st Infantry Brigade on the territories under our control and in the entire national territory.

3. This irresponsible attitude of Alfredo Cristiani's government and the Armed Forces endangers our decision to call for a unilateral truce, which means the government and the Armed Forces actually want a step up of the war and not peace, which the Salvadoran people want so dearly.

4. Our rifles are ready to defend the territories under our control, and they will be used to forcefully respond to these provocative operations.

5. Since the beginning of operations on 13 November until now, a total of 10 casualties have been inflicted on the criminal Atlacatl Battalion and the 1st Infantry Brigade. These casualties are the sole responsibility of the high command of the Armed Forces and President

Cristiani. Once again this illustrates that they could care less for the blood and lives of the poor people of El Salvador.

6. For the reasons stated above, we call on the Salvadoran people and the international community to demand that President Cristiani and his criminal Armed Forces take measures that correspond to the attitude of the general command of the FMLN, which is aimed at achieving a definitive cease-fire and peace with social justice, democracy, and independence.

[signed] Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front
[issued] Northern Guazapa Hill, 18 November 1991

Nicaragua

Sandinist Assembly Issues Communique

PA1911213691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Nov 91 p 3

[Communique issued by the Assembly of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, during its first "Ordinary Meeting" in Managua on 17 November]

[Text] 1. The Sandinist Assembly has debated and approved its internal regulations, the Ethics and Honor Commission's regulations, and the local FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] organizational regulations. The Sandinist Assembly has also decided to create the following permanent commissions: Economic-Social Commission, Organization and Mobilization Commission, and Peasant and Atlantic Coast Commission.

2. The assembly debated and approved a basic document on Nicaragua's current situation and our tasks, and the document was presented to the National Directorate.

3. Within this framework, the Sandinist Assembly examined the progress and problems experienced in the reconciliation and national stability process that began following the Transition Agreements that were signed between the government and the FSLN, bearing in mind the goals we set for ourselves in the El Crucero document, the Program, and the First Congress Resolutions. The Assembly also examined the degree of compliance achieved regarding the Economic and Social Agreements, Phases I and II, and the impact that the government's Economic Adjustment Plan is having on the most destitute sectors of our society.

4. The Sandinist Assembly has come to the conclusion that the most critical obstacles to achieving a true peace with justice, a genuine national reconciliation process, political and social stability, and protection of all Nicaraguans have been created by extreme right groups, which—through destabilizing actions—want to restore the Somozist system. This system is based on injustices, a lack of respect for the Constitution and the laws, hoarding of riches, immorality, and the destitution of poor people.

5. This situation has resulted in the assassination of dozens of Sandinist activists; the attempt to outlaw the FSLN and violate the privileges of our secretary general, Commander Daniel Ortega; the violent eviction of cooperatives and peasants who benefited from the Agrarian Law's benefits and lands which are rightfully theirs; the plots contrived at the National Assembly to reform the Constitution through illegal procedures; the stubborn determination to approve Law 133, which violates the Constitution and the ownership rights of thousands of Nicaraguans, even though it has been vetoed by the executive branch; the creation of a police corps outside the law and the Constitution, while encouraging the creation of armed bands in the countryside; the disavowal of the institutional role of the Army and the police; and, last but not least, the efforts to create chaos and violence through backward actions, such as the destruction of Commander Carlos Fonseca's mausoleum—a terrorist action that has been repudiated throughout the world.

6. The FSLN condemns the government's use of repression against labor, social, and agrarian sectors; it stresses dialogue and negotiation as the only means to solve the problems of these sectors.

7. In its struggle to defend democracy, peace, and stability, the FSLN's political conduct will abide by the guidelines to seek a consensus among a majority of the Nicaraguan people and the creation of favorable conditions to recover political power in the 1996 elections. We do not support the use of violence as a method of political action, and we advocate dialogue and negotiation within the framework of the Constitution.

The FSLN is willing to participate in a tripartite National Dialogue with the government and National Opposition Union parties, to seek—in a serious and responsible way—specific solutions to the critical crisis prevailing in Nicaragua.

8. The FSLN believes that national stability is only possible based on respect for the basic rights of the people, the workers, the peasants, the unemployed, small- and medium-sized businessmen, the producers, and the middle class; it will strive to protect these rights.

The FSLN will counter—as the best way to eliminate the causes of violence—extreme measures which result from economic adjustment policies that jeopardize the people's rights; steadily increase the cost of living and unemployment levels; undermine social services, particularly hospital services; and restrict credits to producers in the countryside.

9. The FSLN will also struggle against all attempts to reinstall the political, social, and economic aspects of Somozism. That shameful system, which the revolution expelled, represents the main threat to peace and the consolidation of democracy. We will firmly oppose the return of property confiscated from the Somozists.

10. The FSLN will back the legitimate struggle of the workers and other sectors of the population and will struggle for compliance with the National Agreement, for jobs, for a better standard of living, for land, for housing, for health and education, and for a fair salary. We will also struggle for the workers' 25 percent ownership of state enterprises to be sold to the private sector. We will struggle for respect for Agrarian Reform-issued land titles and for the delivery to urban dwellers of their property titles.

11. The FSLN will defend the integrity of the Army and the police, which in the framework of the Constitution and the law must defend national sovereignty and safeguard public order and the people's safety. The FSLN will reject any attempt to create any other armed body as well as the existence of any other armed body in violation of the Constitution. Disarmament in rural areas is an urgent task. It must be accomplished in order to create conditions of security and tranquillity and scare away for good the threat of war in Nicaragua.

12. The FSLN hopes for a new type of honorable and respectful relationship with the U.S. Government. The relationship should begin with an absolute lack of interference by the United States in the internal affairs of Nicaragua. The FSLN will try to contribute to a just peace in El Salvador through negotiations and it will act similarly in the solution of all conflicts that are still going on in Central America.

13. The FSLN demands that the government respect the autonomous status of the Atlantic Coast as well the multiethnic nature of the Nicaraguan people. In addition, the FSLN supports the right of the two autonomous regions of the Atlantic Coast in its decisions on the use of their natural resources, which must be duly protected.

14. The FSLN stongly condemns the sacrilegious actions that have taken place in Catholic churches in the last few days. They hurt the religious feelings of the Nicaraguan people.

15. The unity of all Sandinists, regardless of our role in society, is a commitment we must now assume, to unify the people with a renewed spirit in this new historic stage of our struggle in the promotion of peace, social and economic justice, full democracy, and national stability.

Free Fatherland or Death!

[issued] Managua, 17 November 1991, on the 15th Anniversary of the fall of National Hero Carlos Fonseca, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Revolution, and on the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the FSLN.

Argentina

U.S. Said Not Forcing Cuba Boycott on Country

PY1911172491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1255 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA)—Jorge Mas Canosa, representative of the Cuban-American National Foundation, has stated that Argentina is not on the list of countries that will be forced by the United States to join the commercial blockade against Cuba.

Refuting a report to this effect published by the daily PAGINA 12, the former CIA member and brigade commander during the Bay of Pigs invasion said that that daily "is lying" and that he would sue for libel.

Mas Canosa, who on 16 November met with President Carlos Menem in New York, admitted he had helped to draft the bill on Cuba for Democratic Deputy Roberto Torricelli. The bill established an economic boycott against the island with the cooperation of "those countries that maintain a significant level of trade" with Havana.

During a chat with a special PAGINA 12 correspondent in New York, Mas Canosa said: "I spoke with President Menem about democracy in Cuba." Regarding the aforementioned bill he asserted that "the United States has the right to choose its partners."

He then denied that Guillermo Patricio Kelly is the Foundation's representative in Argentina, although he said that the former member of the National Liberation Alliance does belong to the organization.

He maintained that "Menem [words indistinct] of personal value" and asserted that "Argentina has nothing to gain from a relationship with Cuba."

Menem Comments on Castro, Calls U.S. 'Ally'

PY1911143691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1152 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem has commented on the treatment he received in the United States. He said that he was not prepared for "so much affection." He also said that Cuban leader Fidel Castro "should give his people a chance to chose a democratic path." He added that his government "is an ally of the United States."

Menem said that he will continue to improve the economic plan and that he will support Avelino Porto for senator from the federal capital.

President Menem was interviewed last night by a reporter of U.S. television in one of the halls of the luxurious Waldorf Astoria in New York. Menem looked relaxed but said that he was "very tired."

He said that Castro "is the only person who still talks about Marxism." He added that Castro "should give his people a chance to choose."

Menem called on the Argentine people to support him in his desire for "Fidel Castro to give his people a democratic way."

Menem said that "Argentina is a friend to everyone, but an ally of the United States." He said: "That is the way it is and everyone should know that we are an ally of that power, and that power is our ally."

Menem also stated that Health and Social Action Minister Avelino Porto "has my support" for the senatorial candidacy in the federal capital next year.

Asked if Carlos Grosso, mayor and head of the Justicialist Party of the federal capital, thinks the same way Menem said "[words indistinct] I support Porto."

He said that the national cabinet will remain unchanged "until 1995."

He added that the only change will be the replacement of Avelino Porto by Julio Cesar Araoz.

Menem also said that Congress should approve the decree that deregulated the economy; otherwise, "it will have a debt with the people."

He said: "The desires of the people in the elections should be respected through support for the government economic policy."

Menem, who was wearing a gray striped suit, white shirt, and blue tie, answered all the reporters' questions but did not answer when questioned if he would like to be reelected.

Menem said: "If I answer, it will be in the headlines of all newspapers." He added that if the Constitution is reformed, "the party will decide who will be the candidate for the presidential elections."

Menem also labeled U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman as "an excellent official who supports government actions."

He said: "Todman is a great friend of Argentina who does not interfere in internal affairs."

Menem also joked with the reporters when he said that the coffee in the United States is the coffee the "cowboys" drink.

Asked about the gays and lesbians who demonstrated because their counterparts are not respected in Argentina, Menem said that the homosexual community in Argentina has a juridical status.

He said: "In the United States, it is normal to see demonstrations by homosexuals who are sometimes accompanied by policemen and even priests." He added jokingly that "if this were to occur in Argentina, the next day we would all be hanged in Plaza de Mayo.

President Menem made reporter Daniel Haddad laugh when he admitted he lost the tennis match to President George Bush by 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

It was Menem's turn to laugh when he said: "This game was the best of five sets. The remaining two will be played in Argentina and I will have to win them both." He added: "This time Bush put [words indistinct] and it would not have looked good [words indistinct].

Menem Announces $3 Billion IMF Loan for 1992

PY2011013491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Nov 91 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] New York—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will grant Argentina a three billion-dollar loan before the end of the first quarter of 1992, President Carlos Menem announced yesterday in this city.

The extended-facility loan will allow the country to begin negotiating with international creditor banks at the end of January next year.

Beaming with satisfaction, Menem described this situation as "paramount to admittance to the Brady Plan."

Speaking at the historic Waldorf Astoria Hotel in this city before an audience of businessmen linked to the America's Society and the Council of the Americas, Menem made public a communique signed by IMF Director Michel Camdessus.

"The Argentine authorities are carrying out a programme of adjustment and structural transformation that is showing positive results. Inflation has dropped substantially, confidence is mounting and economic activity is accelerating," said the IMF communique.

Camdessus will visit Buenos Aires on November 27 to monitor Argentina's fulfillment of IMF guidelines, sources said.

For his part, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo described as "fundamentally important" a meeting held yesterday morning between Menem and Gerald Curigham, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, during which a renegotiation of Argentina's 66,000 million-dollar foreign debt was discussed.

Also yesterday, in a speech to American Jewish leaders, Menem said he would open Argentina's files on Nazis who took refuge there after World War II. The files include those of Adolf Eichmann, who organized the transportation to death camps of millions of Jews, and doctor Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz concentration camp's "Angel of Death" who entered Argentina in 1948 on a Red Cross passport.

Menem also said he planned to ask Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to allow the 4,000 Jews living there to leave if they want. The Argentine president, son of Syrian immigrants, is expected to meet al-Asad early next year. [passage omitted]

World Bank To Offer Loan Up to $1 Billion

PY2011012691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Nov 91 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—The World Bank will grant loans to Argentina this year totalling 800 to 1,000 million dollars, World Bank official Richard Newfarmer said in a press interview in Buenos Aires yesterday. Of this total, 300 million dollars will be destined to the restructurization of state-owned enterprises before their privatization, Newfarmer added.

"We are very impressed by the speed of (structural) changes, which has been deepened by deregulation and privatizations," he said. Newfarmer expressed confidence that Argentina will reach agreement with the IMF for an extended facility loan, and said that the World Bank is willing to support Argentina to access the Brady foreign debt reduction plan.

Newfarmer said that the World Bank jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank is studying the possibility of granting Argentina a loan to finance the restructuring of pension funds. Meanwhile, World Bank representative Myrna Alexander pointed out that international credit organizations are mostly concerned with Argentina's fiscal situation and that the Treasury must increase revenue and reduce public expenditure.

Mendoza Police Demand Salary Adjustment

Police Confined to Barracks

PY1911141891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1250 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Mendoza, 19 Nov (TELAM)—Provincial Government Minister Nicolas Becerra stated today that "since early this morning the National Border Police have been asked to help to safeguard order and the lives and property of the population."

This measure was adopted last night by Mendoza Provincial Governor Jose Octavio Bordon, who asked Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez to order the participation of those forces following the decision by the provincial police to confine themselves to barracks, demanding a salary readjustment.

It was also decided to appoint Public Security Under Secretary Valentin Ugarte as the acting police chief and Police Officer Hugo Jesus Orihuela Moreno as chief of the 1st Regional Unit.

Becerra termed as "absolutely false the rumors that several police officers involved in the incident have been retired." He said that the provincial government has not taken any retaliatory measures.

Governor Says Conflict Over

PY2011004291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2301 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Mendoza, 19 Nov (TELAM)—Commenting on the police conflict that was overcome this afternoon, Mendoza Governor Jose Octavio Bordon said that "we are going to guarantee public security" with every police resource available in the province, as it already has been done by calling in the National Border Police.

Bordon said these actions will be taken "with great prudence" within the framework of "justice, without any desire for revenge or biased actions that could bring disorder into a force that must remain well organized."

In a communique released by the Public Information Office, Bordon said: "We will persevere in our convictions, and we will continue to exercise them with prudence. We also will exercise our right to choose the time we deem appropriate to reconcile the solution of the conflict with maintaining public security."

Bordon added that the government "did not conduct any negotiations other than those publicly known," and that it had already been reported earlier that "a new salary policy will be implemented in December" for all government employees. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Swears In New Armed Forces Commanders

PY2011022491 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] During a ceremony in Government House, President Jaime Paz Zamora today swore in the new members of the Armed Forces Command. The ceremony was attended by cabinet members, Armed Forces members, and special guests. The ceremony began with the reading of the presidential decree that in its first article appoints the new commanders of the Armed Forces.

The new Armed Forces commander in chief will be Air Force General Alejandro Camponovo, who was Bolivian Air Force commander. The new joint chief of staff will be General Oscar Vargas Lorenzeti. The new Army commander will be Brigade General Dardo Gomez Garcia. Admiral Rolando Herrera was ratified as Navy commander. [passage omitted]

Repressive Campaign Against Coca Growers Denied

PY1911140891 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno has said that there is no repressive campaign against coca growers. He added that this fact has been already denied on many occasions. Saavedra said that reports disseminated in this regard are mere speculations that seek to distort the democratic tasks carried out by the Interior Ministry and the government as a whole.

Saavedra noted that there is no repressive plan against coca growers. Asked about the murder of a former antidrug forces agent, he said:

[Begin recording] This person was not an antidrug forces member, because this organization was created in 1987. It is true that Retamozo participated in the first antidrug actions. We also know about his attitude in the past. The Interior Ministry has always expressed its concern about the antidrug struggle. The government does not advocate violence. We must not turn Bolivia into a violent country. We promulgate decrees and make efforts to decisively fight drug trafficking.

According to early reports, Retamozo's murder can be attributed to revenge by a group of drug traffickers. We are aware of the details of the murder. Retamozo met with a person who is believed to have links with drug trafficking. He was subsequently murdered. An investigation is under way to try to obtain information on this case in the next few days. [end recording]

Pilots Suspend Flights To Protest DEA 'Abuses'

PY2011014991 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Trinidad, 13 Nov (PRESENCIA)—The Beni Association of Civilian Pilots has decided to discontinue indefinitely all flying services conducted by their small planes because of lack of guarantees to normally carry out their activities.

Association leader Francisco Arias told PRESENCIA that the decision was adopted because they have no guarantees to operate normally, because of the government's objectionable position "of making only promises," and because "we have exhausted our negotiations with the government to protect civilian pilots from DEA abuses."

The decision was made in a four-hour assembly attended by delegates from Trinidad, San Borja, Riberalta, Guayaramerin, and Santa Ana.

New confiscations of small planes and arrests of civilian pilots by antidrug personnel were discussed at the meeting.

The association believes the situation is untenable "because repressive actions are being focused on everyone except on those who are truly involved in the drug trade." It contends that "no one pays any attention to what the government has to say" because DEA agents have overstepped the authority of national and local officials. Besides, "small planes are arbitrarily confiscated by DEA agents" to submit them to "a narcotest," which "by itself cannot be considered sufficient incriminating evidence to charge a pilot" with being involved in the drug trade.

Arias also reported the arrest on 8 November of civilian pilot Jorge Suarez. He is a nephew of Roberto Suarez,

who is serving a jail term in the San Pedro Prison on charges of being involved in the drug trade. Upon his release for lack of evidence on 10 November, the pilot said he had been interrogated by DEA agents.

Arias said that Suarez' plane, which bears registration No. CP 1261, has been "labeled" and still is being held at the Santa Ana airport until authorities submit it to the appropriate "narcotest."

The decision to discontinue public services "is the final result" of a process of repeated complaints against the "unpopular narcotest and against some aspects of Law 1008."

Arias regretted the fact that U.S. Embassy pressures have thus far prevailed in the fight against the drug trade.

U.S., Argentine Firms To Exploit Oil in Chaco

PY1911113091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Representatives of the (Diamond Solobi) oil company today met with President Paz Zamora to convey to him their decision to make every possible effort following the purchase of two concessions from the Occidental Bolivia enterprise.

(Diamond Solobi) is made up of the U.S. Diamond Shamrock company and the Argentine Sol Petrol company. It has purchased two concessions from the Occidental Bolivia Company to exploit oil in Campo Porvenir, in the Bolivian Chaco, and to prospect for oil in Madre de Dios, Pando Department. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Perez Says Integration To Solve Economic Crisis

PY2011002491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Claudia Moreira at the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] In a news conference at the Foreign Ministry today, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said that integration is the solution to the Latin American countries' economic crisis. In his opinion, despite its current difficulties, Brazil has a powerful economy and a volume of exports that somehow ensures its economic stability. President Perez said that integration with Venezuela will soon become a reality. In February, the two countries will sign an economic complementation agreement that will lead to the establishment of a free market between them.

President Perez' visit, which symbolizes a greater trade rapprochement between the two countries, is already yielding results. He said that the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation, Petrobras, and the Venezuelan oil company soon will sign an agreement that will enable the two governments to implement an open trade policy in the two countries. He also commented on intensification of trade along common rivers and on Brazilian participation in the conclusion of the Venezuelan hydroelectric complex.

Social Security Institute Starts Selling Assets

PY2011001891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Social Security Institute, INSS, today began selling its real estate, which has been valued at $200 million. It includes 7,467 properties nationwide. The first list consists of 2,213 pieces of property, 551 of which are located in Rio de Janeiro. They include shops, apartments, houses, tracts of land, and warehouses that have been transferred to the INSS in the last 40 years as partial payment of debts.

In the opinion of the INSS Administration and Finance Director Luciano Peixoto, the sales will yield billions of cruzeiros for INSS.

Chile

Honecker Not Authorized To Enter Country

PY2011004891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Santiago, 19 Nov (EFE)—After the announcement that Erich Honecker, ex-president of the former GDR, would be expelled from the Soviet Union, acting Chilean Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas said on 19 November that no petition has been received for his entry into the country, which in any case would not be approved.

Vargas stated that the Chilean Government would maintain the same position that it adopted in October 1991, when Honecker's wife stayed in the country two weeks to visit her daughter Sonia, who is married to a Chilean and has two children.

On that occasion, there was a lot of speculation as to whether Honecker would visit the country soon, but the minister has reiterated that "we will not authorize his entry." [passage omitted]

Reportage on Supreme Court Letelier Decision

Government Satisfied With Decision

PY1911190891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa said today that the government is satisfied with the Supreme Court decision confirming the indictment of Manuel Contreras and Pedro Espinoza. He added that President Aylwin also was very happy with the court decision.

[Begin Correa recording] I believe that the decision is on the right track because it satisfies the profound desire for justice of all Chileans. The government has cooperated and will continue to cooperate for the definitive clarification of the

murder of Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Moffit, for the identification of the people responsible for the murder, and for their punishment. This process is going in the direction we all want. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Patricio Rojas and General Augusto Pinochet are studying the possibility of sending Brigadier Pedro Espinoza into retirement once and for all, because of his alleged link with the murder of Orlando Letelier. This information was disclosed by Minister Rojas when commenting on the Supreme Court decision confirming the indictment of Pedro Espinoza and General Manuel Contreras, retired. [passage omitted]

The rightists believe it is not appropriate to voice an opinion on court actions related to the Supreme Court's divided decision of three to two on the Letelier murder case, confirming the indictment of General Manuel Contreras, retired, and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, who is on active duty in the Army.

National Renewal Vice President Gonzalo Eguiguren said the court decision must be accepted and no comments should be made. He explained that court decisions should not only be applauded when appropriate but that they should be respected at all times. [passage omitted]

Joaquin Lavin, secretary general of the UDI [Independent Democratic Union], said that the important thing is for the process to continue and that no comments should be made on the Supreme Court decision. He added that the UDI always was interested in clarifying the murder of Orlando Letelier. [passage omitted]

Politicians React to Case

PY1911234091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The Radical Party, through Secretary General Mario Astorga, has expressed satisfaction over the Supreme Court's decision to confirm the arrest warrants for General Contreras and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza for the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his U.S. secretary, Ronni Moffit. Astorga said that this decision, besides allowing further investigation of the Letelier case, creates a precedent in cases of human rights violations and rekindles hopes that Chilean justice will recover the prestige it had in the past.

Deputy Jorge Molina, vice president of the PPD [Party for Democracy], said that now it will be possible to investigate under whose orders Gen. Contreras acted. Contreras was the chief of DINA [National Intelligence Directorate], an organization that used to report directly to the Army commander in chief. According to the decree that created it, DINA is a military organization, Deputy Molina said, and he asked whether the chief of this service could decide on such terrible actions without the knowledge of his superiors. The case of the murder of Spanish diplomat Carmelo Soria also should be investigated because apparently the same people who are being charged in this process also were involved in Soria's murder, Molina stated.

Christian Democracy National Secretary Felipe Sandoval said that the whole country hopes the Letelier case will be solved because a long time has elapsed since the attack took place in Washington. He added that Judge Banado's investigation in this case has been very positive for the judicial branch's image, which was distrusted by the citizenry.

The Communist Party, through leaders Manuel Cantero and Manuel Hernandez, said the Supreme Court decision to confirm the arrest of Gen. Contreras and Brigadier Espinoza is a victory of the democratic forces against impunity.

Army Dissatisfaction Viewed

PY2011113091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Report by Patricia Pollitzer, director of the Television Nacional press department]

[Text] As I understand it, the high command believes that Brigadier Espinoza should not be put on the retirement list right now. They argue that this would be tantamount to judging him before the courts do.

The uneasy feeling in the Army over the Letelier case, however, goes beyond Brig. Espinoza's situation. The Army High Command is more concerned now than it was two months ago when Judge Banados ordered the arrest of General Contreras and Brig. Espinoza. The Army is not concerned about the Supreme Court decision announced yesterday because it was expected. They are not concerned over the outcome of the trial because they still believe the DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] chiefs will not be found guilty of Orlando Letelier's murder.

The Army is concerned, however, that the Letelier case may become a trial against the DINA, and later a political trial against the Army. Military men feel that they have successfully sidestepped the possibility that the Rettig Report could become such a trial but they now fear a similar situation through the Letelier case.

Judicial circles assert, however, that Judge Banados is not planning that. Banados has been investigating the situation of the DINA and the way it operated, but this does not mean that he intends to pass judgment on it. It is being said that Banados only wants to establish the involvement of DINA in the Letelier murder case.

In light of this, court circles have granted great importance to yesterday's decision. It is now being said that the decision was not reached by as narrow a margin as the three to two vote might suggest. The two Supreme Court judges who believe that Contreras and Espinoza should not be indicted did not question the innocence of the DINA chiefs through their minority vote. They merely raised a formality which suggests that Chilean courts should not try this case.

Consequently, it seems that the five judges basically agree that there are fundamental reasons to believe that Contreras and Espinoza participated in Orlando Letelier's murder. Having said that, the two will probably be released on bail

over the next few days, although this does not mean that their trial will not continue. The case will probably drag on for at least another year. People who have had access to the case or who have seen the evidence assert that, no matter how long the case may last, the evidence is so overwhelming that in the end Gen. Contreras and Brig. Espinoza will be sentenced for Letelier's murder.

Foreign Minister Meets Swedish Businessmen

PY1911205291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who is in Sweden, said today that the Chilean work group visiting Europe is carrying out a peaceful mission that represents the peaceful content of the transition toward democracy.

Minister Silva Cimma stated that perhaps the Chilean democratic process is not moving as fast as some people would like, but he added: We are convinced that the process will lead to a stable and lasting democracy, which is the desire of the majority of the Chilean people, and of the democrats who are friends of Chile.

Silva Cimma also met with representatives of the 30,000 Chileans who live in Sweden. One of the main issues discussed by Silva Cimma was the conditions offered by Chile and Sweden to facilitate the return of many Chileans who found asylum in Sweden.

Silva Cimma also discussed several concrete issues. He said that Chilean natural resources, relatively cheap manual labor, and the facilities given to foreign companies prove that Chile is the ideal country for investment. This is a summary of Silva Cimma's comments during a commercial seminar in Stockholm with representatives of the Swedish Import Council and the Swedish Federation of Industries. Silva Cimma explained Chilean economic achievements thanks to the efforts of the national and foreign private sector. He added that the Chilean Government is making an effort to reduce inflation and maintain economic growth at the same level of 5 percent achieved last year. He said that thanks to this percentage, exports doubled in the last five years. He said current exports are 30 percent of the gross domestic product.

He added that many countries have expressed solidarity with Chile and its democratic cause but that even though they did not trade with the previous regime, they expressed confidence to their industrialists because Chilean laws do not discriminate between national and foreign investments. He said that Chile has many natural resources, quality manual labor, good ports, and an investment law that facilitates the installation of new industries. He concluded by saying that the main purpose of his working trip is to increase Chilean exports.

Grossi Appointed Finance Under Secretary

PY1911211491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Summary] Economist Jorge Rodriguez Grossi, from the Christian Democracy, was appointed as finance under secretary to replace Pablo Pinera, who will become Central Bank adviser. Rodriguez Grossi is the Finance Ministry adviser on foreign credit and coordinator for multilateral organizations.

Colombia

M-19 Leader Denies Ties With MRTA Rebels

PY1911211091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 9 Nov 91 p A8

[Excerpts] Antonio Navarro Wolff, leader of the M-19 [19 April Movement] guerrilla group, has made exclusive remarks to EXPRESO. M-19 now is a legally recognized group. Navarro said the three main reasons that made it possible for M-19 insurgents to rejoin civil life have been the unwavering desire to promote peace expressed by the whole society, a real possibility for implementing just and profound political reforms, and stable socioeconomic conditions. "Growing poverty is a stumbling block for any negotiating process," he said.

In remarks made prior to leaving for La Paz, Navarro said: "After almost 19 years of guerrilla activities, M-19 has assumed an active role in bringing peace to Colombia. In our country, there were six armed insurgent groups. Four of us already have decided to promote peace, while the remaining two groups are negotiating with the government to put down their weapons. We are making progress, but the peace process has not yet finished."

"There is a time for everything," Navarro said, quoting the Bible. "We put down our weapons and we are happy for having brought peace to Colombia. We want M-19 to be a reference point and we want the other groups to appreciate us for what we have done," he added. [passage omitted]

Asked if there are any links between M-19 and MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], Navarro said that some talks were held eight years ago but they did not lead anywhere. He said: "M-19 is not Marxist. We are just inspired by a profound sense of nationalism." [passage omitted]

Newspaper Profiles New Cabinet Members

PA1911161191 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Nov 91 p 4A

[Text] Following a series of intense political meetings last week, President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo experienced his first cabinet crisis and appointed seven new ministers. The cabinet changes reflect the political composition of the country in the wake of the 27 October elections.

The cabinet will comprise nine liberals and two conservatives, as well as one member of the New Democratic Force [NFD], which is headed by Andres Pastrana; one member of the National Salvation Movement [MSN], which is headed by Alvaro Gomez Hurtado; and one member of the 19 April Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19], which is headed by Antonio Navarro Wolff.

The ministers are: consertive Nohemi Sanin, foreign minister; NFD member Jorge Ospina Sardi, economic development minister; liberal Carlos Holmes Trujillo, education minister; MSN member Juan Camilo Restrepo, mines and energy minister; liberal Mauricio Vargas, communication minister; and liberal Alfonso Lopez Caballero, agriculture minister.

The president appointed Juan Manuel Santos Calderon, EL TIEMPO deputy director, as the first minister of the newly created Foreign Trade Ministry. Half of his cabinet was reshuffled. Six of the 13 ministers were removed and seven new ministers were appointed. The president confirmed seven of his close aides.

The outgoing ministers are: Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa, who was the foreign minister and presidential designate; Ernesto Samper Pizano, who left the Development Ministry to serve as ambassador to Spain; Liberal Alfonso Valdivieso Sarmiento, who left the Education Ministry; Liberal Luis Fernando Vergara, who left the Mines and Energy Ministry; MSN member Alberto Casas, who left the Communications Ministry; and MSN member Maria del Rosario Sintes, who left the Agricultural Ministry.

The "delivery of the ministers" came after 12 days of intense political debates between Gaviria and the spokesmen of the major political forces represented in the Congress. Yesterday Gaviria met with the conservatives who do not follow the MSN or NFD guidelines.

The conservatives who were named in the cabinet were Foriegn Minister Nohemi Sanin and Labor Minister Francisco Posada de la Pena. Gaviria personally asked the conservatives to bring a list of "likely ministers," who could represent them in the cabinet. They, in turn, left the Presidential Palace and headed for the National Capitol, where they drafted their list in a matter of minutes and submitted it to the president. The list contained at least 40 names.

Afterward, Gaviria made his final contacts to issue the decree reshuffling the cabinet. He called Liberal Party Secretary General Carlos Holmes Trujillo twice to come to the party headquarters. However, Holmes was on a flight to Cali; he had an unavoidable social commitment. Holmes Trujillo learned of his appointment on his flight back from Cali. His schedule for last night was to leave Cali and fly immediately to Bolivia to respond to several invitations, but he chose to cancel the last leg of his trip.

Gaviria also met with EL TIEMPO Deputy Director Santos and telephoned Andres Pastrana, who was in Miami yesterday. He also spoke in the morning with Alvaro Gomez to confirm his decision to appoint Juan Camilo Restrepo. The composition of the cabinet reflects the new political map following the 27 October elections. Gaviria had said before the elections that he would create a government of consensus in which all the major political forces would participate.

Alvaro Gomez was the loser in yesterday's restructuring as his movement dropped from two to one minister.

Minister of Mines Juan Camilo Restrepo is a conservative and a member of the MSN. He received a law degree at San Francisco Javier University, a postgraduate degree in economy at London School of Economics, and a postgraduate degree in administrative law at the Paris University. He is 45 years old and has held important positions, both public and private, including president of the National Stock Commission, commercial manager of the National Federation of Colombia Coffee Growers [Fedecafe], and president of the board of directors at Paz Del Rio Steelworks, the position he was holding prior to his appointment. Restrepo has been adviser to and secretary of the Monetary Board, as well as Fedecafe representative to the International Coffee Organization [OIC] in London. He is an expert in economic affairs and coffee marketing. He is married to journalist Maria Teresa Herran and has three children.

Development Minister Jorge Ospina Sardi is 44 years old and represents the NFD, a party led by Andres Pastrana. Ospina received a bachelor degree in economics at the California University in 1969 and a postgraduate degree in economic development at Oxford University. Some of the most important positions he has held include adviser to IDB and World Bank, head of the National Planning Department, and member of the board of directors at the University of the Andes and the Santa Fe de Bogota Stock Exchange. Currently he is director of the publication NOTA ECONOMICA. Ospina is an expert in economic affairs and as an extensive academic career. He has written several books on economic analysis.

Minister of Communications Mauricio Vargas has had a public career that has been just as meteoric as his career as a journalist. As such, he has received several national awards. His passion for adventure, books, and editing have kept him away from universities. His only academic achievement is a bachelor degree, which he received at the Bogota French Secondary School. At the Ministry of Communications, he will represent Gaviria's followers. He replaces Alberto Casas Santamaria, a conservative and follower of leader Alvaro Gomez Hurtado. Vargas was both adviser in charge of protecting Cesar Gaviria's image during the latter's presidential campaign and Gaviria's communications adviser at the Presidency. Vargas published several works at the Barranquilla daily EL HERALDO and the magazine SEMANA, for which he received several Simon Bolivar journalism awards.

Education Minister Carlos Holmes Trujillo was born in the midst, so to speak, of Liberal Party politics. His father was the late Valle del Cauca leader Carlos Holmes Trujillo, from whom the son inherited a large electoral

capital. Holmes, 40, is Cali's first mayor elected by the people. In this post, he demonstrated his administrative abilities. Later he was elected member of the National Constituent Assembly, where he defended the government's reform proposal. As Liberal Party secretary general, Holmes defended the party's views with ex-president Alfonso Lopez Michelsen during the most recent elections. The new minister is a lawyer with postgraduate degrees in economy from the Sofia University in Japan, where he also was Colombia's consul general and charge d'affaires of the embassy.

Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero is the namesake of his grandfather and father, both Liberal Party presidents. Since 1 September, Lopez had been Colombian ambassador to France, where years ago he received a postgraduate degree in business administration from the European Institute of Administration. He also graduated as an economist at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and holds a master's degree from Columbia University. He has been a Citibank executive, professor of macroeconomy and finance, and auditor delegate of the Banking Superintendancy to Fedecafe in New York. In 1985, he founded the Liberal Insurgency Movement, for which he was elected member of the Chamber of Representatives in 1986 and senator in 1990.

When President Gaviria appointed Nohemi Sanin Posada, now foreign minister, as ambassador to Venezuela, Colombians were puzzled. Friendly Venezuelans called her "Colombia's secret weapon." With her arrival at the Foreign Ministry, where she replaces presidential designate Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Sanin Posada entered a ministry that seemed destined exclusively for men. The new minister holds a law degree from San Francisco Javier University. She was born in Medellin, is 42 years old, and represents the independent conservative sector. She is an expert in various areas of commercial and financial law. Her career in the government's administration started during Belisario Betancur's government, when she held the post of minister of communications. She also was a member of the Peace Commission during the Betancur administration, president of the Colombian Financial Corporation and the Colombian Savings and Housing Institute, and member of the boards of directors of several decentralized institutions. In 1983 the Junior Chamber of Commerce voted her the executive of the year.

Minister of Foreign Trade Juan Manuel Santos is an enthusiastic liberal, journalist, and an expert in economic and coffee matters. For 11 years he represented Fedecafe in London as head of the Colombian delegation to the OIC office also in London. Santos, 40, born in Santa Fe de Bogota, received a degree in business and economy at Kansas University in 1972. He holds a postgraduate degree in economic development from the London School of Economics and a postgraduate degree in public administration from Harvard University. He has been EL TIEMPO deputy director since 1 January 1983. He is also a member of the University of the Andes' board of directors.

For his activities in journalism, he has received several international awards, including the King of Spain Award in 1985 for a series of reports on Nicaragua's internal situation. He is vice president of the Inter-American Press Society's Commission for Freedom of the Press.

Peru

Ecuador Said 'Reluctant To Accept' Protocol

PY1911162491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0746 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Lima, 18 Nov (EFE)—Peruvian Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker stated here today that Ecuador is "reluctant to accept" the Rio de Janeiro Protocol which determined the borders between the two countries.

Blacker termed "regrettable" this position "with respect to an international treaty," and the attitude of the Ecuadoran mass media which "continues to hint at possibilities that are not included in the framework of the protocol, causing confusion among the Peruvian and Ecuadoran people."

Blacker reaffirmed, during a news conference, Peru's position that the Peace, Friendship and Border Treaty—which was signed in 1942, one year after the end of the war between the two countries—definitively solved the border conflict. The treaty was guaranteed by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the United States.

Blacker alluded to the alleged statements by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Argentine who won the 1980 Nobel Prize, that were published in Ecuadoran newspapers, in which they advocate Pope John Paul II's mediation to solve what Ecuador deems to be a territorial conflict with Peru. The pope's mediation was proposed by Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja during the UNGA, but the idea was immediately rejected by Peru because it regarded it as inappropriate and because the Protocol establishes that the parties must solve any disagreements through the guarantors.

Blacker said: "Peru once again reiterates its respect for the terms of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which is the legal instrument that clearly establishes the ways to settle the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border conflict."

He added that the protocol does not provide for the participation of any person or organization "other than the guarantors," and consequently Peru" can not advocate the pope's mediation in the border problem with Ecuador."

Some 78 km in the El Condor Mountain Range on the Peruvian-Ecuadoran border has still to be marked.

Ecuador has called the Rio de Janeiro Protocol "void and inapplicable." In the past few weeks Ecuadoran delegations have visited several Latin American countries, including the guarantors, to explain their position and Borja's proposal.

A special delegation comprising 13 Peruvian congressmen is in Brazil, the first leg of a tour of the guarantor countries, to reaffirm that the Peace, Friendship and Border Treaty is "completely legitimate."

Ecuadoran Reiterates Call For Arbitration

PY1911204491 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Nov 91 Political Section p 4

[Report by Oscar Vargas Romero]

[Excerpt] Ecuadoran Congress President Fabian Alarcon Rivera reiterated his government's request for Pope John Paul II to intervene in the alleged border conflict with Peru. Alarcon Rivera's request, made during an Andean Parliament working meeting yesterday, in the Senate's presidential hall first caused indignation and then rejection. The stubborn Ecuadoran position, written in a vague formal language, prompted the simultaneous reaction of the representatives in Congress of various Peruvian political parties.

Alarcon Rivera, who was surrounded by journalists who, at that time, were covering the congressional session that granted President Alberto Fujimori permission to travel abroad, distributed copies of the statement he read during the working meeting with the presidents of Andean region congresses.

The approximately five-page document reiterates Ecuador's "traditional" position regarding the demarcation of the Cordillera del Condor zone on the border with Peru.

After invoking Latin American integration and current times, the declaration reads as follows:

"Our country desires peace, but a peace based on justice, a peace with dignity, respect for history and for our mutual rights, with the confirmation of having and continuing to be, as established by the titles endorsed by history, by the sacrifice, and the blood shed by our people, a member country of the Amazon.

"For this purpose we have proposed a valid and legitimate mechanism, which is accepted by international law, with the intervention of the highest moral and spiritual authority in the world, who represents the Christian feeling of our peoples."

Alarcon Rivera was persistently sought after by the journalists at the Bolivar Hotel, where the technical meeting of the United Parliament took place, as well as during the meeting with his Andean counterparts in the Senate's presidential hall.

As he was leaving Congress on his way to a luncheon hosted by Senate President Felipe Osterling, after suspending a scheduled news conference, Fabian Alarcon said: "Everything is said in the statement we have just issued."

However, an Ecuadoran Embassy spokesman disclosed that the news conference would be held in the afternoon and the text of the statement would be expanded then.

Alarcon, who looked very nervous, did not accompany his counterparts through the halls of Congress. He held an approximately 45-minute chat with Senate President Felipe Osterling. When the crowd of journalists left, Alarcon hurriedly left, heavily escorted by policemen who prevented any contact with the journalists waiting for him. [passage omitted]

Resignation of Change 90 Deputies 'Surprising'

PY1911203091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Nov 91 p A4

[Text] With the surprising resignation of six of its members the Change 90 bloc in the Chamber of Deputies suffered a hard blow because it lost its position as the second-largest bloc, which it occupied after the 1990 presidential elections.

The resignations of Cesar Vargas Gonzales, Jose de Falla Cobena, Jose Hurtado Zamudio, Carlos Castillo Hoyos, Gabino Vargas Vargas, and Oscar Cruzado Huby reduced the number of the official bloc representatives from 27 to 21.

The six outgoing deputies belong to an evangelic group. They expressed their decision to leave the party because of "mistreatment" by Change 90 leaders, whom they charge with making "isolated decisions that lack a true democratic sense."

In a letter to President Fujimori, leader of the Change 90 movement, they charged that the party's objectives have been diverted. They state: "We herewith express our decision to continue supporting only those decisions made by your administration that benefit the country and the majority of the people."

Congressmen Mario Soto Godoy, Juan Avellaneda, Guillermo Yoshikawa, Gerardo Lopez, and Wilfredo Al... previously had submitted their resignations as mem... s of the Change 90 movement.

The C... e 90 movement is now the fourth-largest bloc in the Chamber of Deputies as far as the number of members is concerned. APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] is the largest bloc with 53 members, AP [Popular Action] is second with 26, and the PPC [Popular Christian Party] is third with 24.

Industrial Group on Open Market, Labor Laws

PY1911223491 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Nov 91 p 2

[Excerpts] The National Association of Industries [SNI] has deemed the elimination of restrictions to free competition not only consistent with the new Peruvian image, but also a way of improving the manufacturing industry.

SNI Vice President Siro Tonani Ricci has said: "There is no place for monopolies or oligopolies that whimsically fix the price of products and raw materials in a free-competition economy." [passage omitted]

He added that SNI also hopes for changes in the structure of the labor policy being enforced in the country and that SNI requests the abrogation of the job security and labor community laws.

He said: "If we can compete freely in Peru and abroad, we must also be free to hire people to consistently reorganize the companies."

He added that for a thorough implementation of a liberal economic policy based essentially on free market laws, the state must withdraw from public companies and other organizations that should be administered by the private sector. [passage omitted]

State Monopoly Banned in Telecommunications

PY1911200091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Nov 91 p A4

[Text] The government approved a series of special measures eliminating bureaucratic and restrictive barriers hindering competitiveness in order to encourage private investments in development projects. The government also banned the state monopoly in telecommunications, sanitation, and urban renewal on a national scale.

The measures widening the horizon and field of action of private initiative are in the form of legislative decrees issued in accordance with specials powers granted by Congress.

The new measures are consistent with other government open- market policies and attempts to free the economy of state controls. They were approved during recent and successive cabinet sessions and were published in yesterday's issue of EL PERUANO. It is presumed that the government will issue other special measures before 15 November, when the special authorizations expire.

Bans on monopolistic and restrictive policies on free competition are contained in legislative Decree No. 701, which states that private enterprises will have freedom of action to produce and market goods, as well as to render services free of any restrictions.

In order to safeguard the fulfillment of these measures, the decree creates a Multisectorial Commission for Free Competition [Comision Multisectorial de la Libre Competencia]. This organization, whose members will represent the government and the private sector, will be responsible for safeguarding the full enforcement of the decree measures.

At the same time, through two other legislative decrees, the government eliminates the state monopoly in the telecommunications field, giving private investors the possibility of investing in this field and, at the same time, of investing in sanitation and urban renewal projects on a national scale.

Regarding telecommunications, the law currently in force considerably hinders the development of this service, especially in the zones in a state of emergency. In view of this, the government notes the public need to develop this sector with private capital in order to contribute to the pacification process.

In the case of sanitation and urban renewal, it is stated that private capital is free to invest in the two fields free of any restrictions. Moreover, another legislative decree modifies the law related to the operation of casinos with the purpose of promoting tourism.

Privatization of State-Owned Schools Planned

PY1911154691 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Nov 91 p A4

[Text] As of next year a large number of state-owned schools will be managed by public and private associations and institutions under a system of temporary concessions for providing the infrastructure, furniture, teachers, and administrative personnel.

Parents' associations, education service cooperatives, religious organizations, the Armed Forces, municipalities, professional schools, state-owned enterprises with private rights and mixed economy, decentralized public institutions, communities, and private organizations will be allowed to participate in this project through agreements signed with the Education Ministry.

The state will implement and control the centers and education programs it deems necessary in keeping with the available budget and with respect to the concept that the classes will be free.

Decree No. 699 published in the official gazette, EL PERUANO, on 7 November declares of national interest and public need the participation of the organized community in all levels and systems of educational service in order to improve the quality of education for the increasing number of students.

Venezuela

Defense Minister Denies Possibility of Coup

PA1911202091 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1658 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, 16 Nov (DPA)—Venezuelan Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich has admitted the country is experiencing a grave political crisis, but dismissed any possibility of a military coup as a reaction to the growing social protests against the government. Gen. Ochoa Antich reaffirmed the military support for the government of Carlos Andres Perez, who is in Brazil on an official visit.

Perez has "the absolute backing" of the Armed Forces, and a de facto government would not be the solution to the crisis, Ochoa told the press. Over the weekend, a group of intellectuals, headed by historian and conservative politician Arturo Uslar Pietri, warned that a military coup against Perez may be in the making in Venezuela. "Without emergency solutions to the crisis, we may have a coup," Uslar Pietri stated.

"The Armed Forces will not support a solution of that sort," Ochoa Antich replied. "Coups have failed as an alternative to resolve the country's problems." As an initial reaction, the Executive Committee of the ruling Democratic Action [AD] accused the intellectuals of adopting an "undemocratic" attitude to seek political support that it would never get in a free election.

The wave of protests against Perez' economic policy worsened in the past weeks with a number of strikes called by Venezuela's unions in Caracas and the major industrial regions of the country. In the past few days, student groups, mainly in Caracas and the Andean region, staged protests against the flaws in the education policy and the bad conditions of schools.

Students Protest Against Transit Fare Increase

PA1911194891 Paris AFP in Spanish 1735 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, 19 Nov (AFP)—New disorders broke out in downtown Caracas at noon (1600 GMT) on 19 November when thousands of high school students were dispersed by police using sabers and tear gas.

According to reports, no one was seriously injured or arrested, but some buildings were slightly damaged, including the archbishopric, where the clergymen provided refuge to the students escaping from policemen.

For the past six weeks, street disorders and demonstrations have occurred daily by high school students protesting the increase in mass transportation fares caused by the increase in gasoline prices.

President Carlos Andres Perez, a social democrat, ordered the monthly increase in fuel until late 1992 as part of an economic agreement with the IMF.

Thousands of Caracas youths surrounded the buildings housing the mayor's office and the congress to demand the passage of a law allowing students to pay half fares and the end to the repression, which has resulted in several students being killed, as well as two policemen in one and a half months of violence.

The student demonstration coincided with another staged by street vendors, who are unhappy with government regulations on how they sell their trinkets on sidewalks. Some merchants, however, feel the government is too tolerant toward the street vendors and closed their shops for a few hours.

Those who did not initially close their businesses had to do so once the demonstrations began because downtown Caracas suffers from a "looting syndrome," since bloody street disorders broke out on 27 February 1989 causing the deaths of hundreds.

* Congressmen Recommend Solutions to Crime

92SM0082B Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 16 Oct 91 Section 1 p 12

[Report on interview with Reinaldo Cervini and Rafael A. Montes de Oca by Vladimir Villegas Poljak; place and date not given]

[Text] With the rise in crime in our communities, politicians are beginning to make proposals and suggest measures aimed at controlling the underworld and restoring law and order among the people.

Rafael Andres Montes de Oca, former minister of interior and Christian Democratic senator, has underlined the need for effective coordination of action by police agencies, proposing that any discussion should once again include the advisability of lowering the age to 16 at which young people may be held legally accountable. For his part, Reinaldo Cervini, former president of Pro-Venezuela and now a congressional deputy, has once again proposed the death penalty for drug traffickers, inasmuch as a large part of all crimes are committed under the influence of drugs.

Montes de Oca believes the crime problem must be attacked efficiently with very vigorous, coordinated, uniform action "so this great misfortune may be eliminated." He does not think it is a matter of analyzing the known causes of crime.

"Confronted with the crime situation, we cannot provide a conceptual response, basically seeking the causes of crime, which would be no more than a strategy for diverting an existing issue or avoiding it. In order to be effective, action aimed at crime must be sufficiently intelligent, resounding, and coherent. If these three elements are not present, it will be impossible to fight crime in any serious way."

He notes that instead of seeking greater consistency between the different policies, what we see is greater disparity! "The fight against crime has now been joined by such national organizations as DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], the National Guard, Judicial Technical Police, metropolitan police forces, and state police, now more autonomous as a result of regionalization. A number of municipal police forces have even been set up in accordance with provisions contained in the Organic Law on Municipal Government."

He observes that all of this would be well and good "if the entire mechanism worked like a clock and moved in the same direction. However, such is not the case. The unfortunate circumstances and administrative anarchy reigning in the country have combined to cause a multiplicity of police institutions and produce the scattered nature and therefore ineffectiveness of their operation. What we need now is a coordinated institution."

[Villegas Poljak] So the Unified Police Command does not work?

[Montes de Oca] It is not a permanent agency or rather, it exists permanently, but is not continuously in action. Rather, it draws up programs and supports specific police actions based on circumstances. The Ministry of Interior is the major agency coordinating police action and this is the agency that should play that role. However, problems of a practical nature have arisen. This is an opportunity to establish the policy that it is a person, rather than an agency, under the Ministry of Interior and the Office of President who acts as coordinator of all police functions, so that discrepancies in terms of interference by the Central Government in the operation of state or municipal police forces will not arise.

According to Montes de Oca, there are very distinguished Venezuelans with the knowledge, experience, and service records to exercise such coordinating duties. He named Juan Martin Echeverria, Remberto Uzcategui, and "others who could perform extraordinarily well in coordinating this fight against crime."

"Would that official then have the rank of minnister of police?"

"Semantics could pose a problem here. A coordinator is a coordinator. If you want to call him a minister, go ahead, but his role is that of coordinator and the order creating this administrative office should say so. It is not a matter of a bureaucratic function but rather, an executive post, which could even result in a saving of resources that could then be used in accordance with a national plan aimed at reducing costs."

In addition, Montes de Oca recalls that when he was minister of interior, he stressed the need to reduce the age of legal responsibility to 16.

"At that time, a number of distinguished Venezuelans raised their voices in radical opposition to such a proposal. I think it is time to bring it up again. I also have an irrefutable argument. Today, a youth of 16 is much more mature than a 19-year-old was in another day. The development of communication, the influence of television: These are elements affecting the maturity and training of an individual in terms of his life and social conduct, and this is obviously a factor to be studied when it comes time to establish at what age a Venezuelan is fully responsible for his acts, before society and the law. We must eliminate a number of taboos and dogmas because circumstances are the most decisive element when it comes to establishing new approaches that once appeared impossible to apply."

Reinaldo Cervini

Reinaldo Cervini, former president of Pro-Venezuela and an Independent member of Parliament, recalls that on several occasions, constitutional amendments have been proposed to make it possible to fight crime, particularly crimes related to drug trafficking.

He proposes a referendum in which the country would express its wishes on a substantial modification in the Penal Code, "and as part of such modifications, I have proposed that the problem of drugs and the drug trafficker, which are prostituting and destroying lives throughout the world, should be fought by applying the death penalty. It is the only mechanism that has worked in civilized societies. It has been used in communist Russia, the United States, and all countries."

In addition, Cervini says the country's prisons are schools where young people are corrupted and destroyed. "Here we must implement social action preventing the spread of poverty now invading Venezuela as a result of the squandering of resources by this government and previous governments, destroying the country's tranquillity. We have no security; our borders are controlled by Colombians and Brazilians. The government worries more about Haiti than it does Venezuela. The country is dying and businessmen are leaving because there is no peace. There is a total absence of social policies and authority."

Cervini denies that the solution to the lack of personal safety in our country lies in the privatization of police services.

"I do not agree. I had private guards at my home and they were gangsters. Businesses must get rid of such people. State security cannot be in the hands of the private sector. That is the duty of government. Here everyone knows they could be killed at any time. There is no authority."

Cervini does not think this government has the time, will, or courage to change the current state of affairs.

"In the interior, for example, livestock and machinery are stolen with total impunity. This is leading us to an ever more explosive Venezuela in which the principle of authority has disappeared."

* Economic Development in Sucre State Described

92SM0076B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Oct 91 Section D p 10

[Article by Felix Reyes Yanez]

[Text] An analysis document from Sucre State's Chamber of Commerce and Industries indicates that the state shows social and economic variables ranking it as one of the country's least advantaged states, primarily because of the fact that the oil revenues have not reverted favorably to this federal state. Nevertheless, on the other hand, it may be claimed that precisely because of this situation, the region has achieved what it has by relying on its own resources and people, in a (somewhat successful) attempt to attain a diversified economy.

This has given it a relative advantage in comparison with the country's other states because, in fact, Sucre has managed to progress in constructing a real economic base, founded upon fishing and agriculture. As a result of the latter, it has been able to support a certain amount of agroindustrial development.

Pastor Espin, president of that chamber, remarks: "We have good prospects for development in metal working and in the auto parts industry, backed by the automotive industry located in Cumana. This is generating a beneficial concentration of business firms associated with small and medium-sized industry."

In the view of its promoters, Sucre is an important starting point for making progress in the direction of its industrial development. It would achieve this by taking effective advantage of the dynamic effect that the gas and tourism mega-projects planned for the near future will unquestionably have on the regional economy.

Promotion of Investments

The Cumana Chamber of Commerce is devising an investment promotion program that is part of a long-standing regional aspiration, one that has been given the general name "Project Sucre."

The business sector has claimed to be willing to assume its share of social responsibility, maintaining that it proposes to contribute and promote concrete solutions and initiatives aimed at achieving regional development.

This investment promotion program is derived from the notion that no one will come to Sucre to invest his capital based on an offer of alleged "paradises." Rather, it will be possible only if, along with certain investment opportunities in the form of concrete, feasible, profitable projects, we offer him guarantees and security. The latter must include the provision of efficient services and a supportive economic infrastructure. There must also be advantages and facilities making Sucre an attractive place for him to decide to invest, instead of doing so elsewhere in the country or the world.

An Inventory of Opportunities

The board members of the Sucre Chamber of Commerce and Industries declare: "We are currently working on an inventory of natural and human resources, and economic and social infrastructure. It includes studies of the resources and sectors of regional economic activities, the facilities and incentives offered by our state, and programs and projects currently being executed or studied. The purpose is to determine the scope of concrete investment opportunities and, with that information, to devise and carry out an investment promotion campaign based on the real comparative advantages offered by Sucre State."

Obstacles to Sucre's Development

Generally speaking, the obstacles to Sucre's development are associated with the same ones existing on the national level. They relate mainly to the high cost of money, the weakness of our currency, the bureaucratic impediments with regard to permits, and the serious shortcomings in public services. These are obviously hampering the attempts of the private sector and the public sector per se to spur the progress of the regions.

Privatization of Services

The business owners' document, the basis for these assertions, states that the regionalization and subsequent privatization, not only of public service enterprises but also of state-owned producers of goods, are clearly the only valid means of making business firms efficient and highly productive. This would have the effect of a twofold benefit for Venezuelans because, on the one hand, the country would save a large amount of money being lost annually as a result of the mismanagement of enterprises; and, on the the other, the state would become more efficient. It would be engaged exclusively in activities that are really incumbent on it.

But, furthermore, the regions would profit, because the wealth generated by these business firms would revert directly to their economies, improving the opportunities for social welfare and social development.

Regional Management in Sucre's Development

The business owners claim to hold in high esteem "the good intentions and management being implemented by Eduardo Morales Gil, governor of Sucre State, directed toward regional development. This effort is aimed at ensuring the building of the basic infrastructure for cleaning the environment, which would enable Sucre State to make effective use of the immense, exceptional potential for tourism development that it unquestionably possesses." They note: "Hence, we acknowledge his marked concern for executing other infrastructural projects vital to Sucre's development."

Training of Human Resources

"Sucre can display with pride a long list of good, efficient educational institutions, represented by the original group at the University of the East [UDO], the Cumana Technological University Institute [IUT], the IUT-Carupano, several groups at the National Open University, two top-ranking centers of the INCE [National Institute of Cooperative Education] with headquarters in Cumana and Carupano, a school of fishing, and another to train fishing boat captains. If that were not enough, there is the Oceanographic Institute of Venezuela, affiliated with the UDO.

"In other words, there is a support infrastructure for training human resources. If put to good use, through a proper adaptation to the real requirements of the economy, the culture and, generally, the fundamental social activities, it could become an extraordinary driving force, giving a definite impetus to Sucre's progress."

The Fundamental Elements for Development

Espina remarks: "In our view, the development of any regional entity should be founded basically on the consolidation and optimization of its existing productive plant. Consequently, we think that the main effort in Sucre should be aimed at reinforcing the immense potential offered it by fishing activity, agriculture, agroindustry, and the automotive, metal working, and auto parts

industry. Therefore, a major factor for Sucre's development is that of the state's providing facilities for the development of these activities. This includes, among other things, the creation of a suitable atmosphere for developing the fishing industry, a solution to the land ownership problems, and the elimination, for once and for all, of the National Cocoa Fund's marketing authority, so that this activity may be carried out efficiently by private entities. But, in addition, we have the legitimate aspiration that the Venezuelan State become capable of solving the present problems besetting the national economy, and that we may count on interest rates and a monetary parity that would actually benefit productive and commercial activity."

Guyana

Government Paper Denies Election Postponement

FL1811191691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1811 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 18, CANA—The government-owned CHRONICLE newspaper has denied an opposition press report on Sunday that President Desmond Hoyte will shortly announcement a postponement of the December 16 general election until the first quarter of next year.

The MIRROR, organ of the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), had quoted "confidential sources" as saying that the plan to postpone the election was communicated to the U.S.-based Carter Center by a government delegation last Friday.

The Carter Center, led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, has been invited by the Hoyte government to monitor the poll and certify its fairness. The invitation was extended in light of past opposition accusations of election rigging against the government.

The CHRONICLE quoted a presidential spokesman as saying that President Hoyte has not been "provided with any information that should make him postpone the elections and he has taken no such decision".

Hoyte set the December 16 election date based on the view of Election Commission Chairman Rudy Collins that the seriously flawed voters list could be corrected to allow an election before year-end.

On Saturday, however, Collins told reporters he was now "less optimistic" about producing a clean voters list in time for the December poll.

The Carter Centre has told the government it would not monitor the election if it is not satisfied with the conditions.

Security Increased at Elections Office

FL1611141691 Bridgetown CANA in English 2045 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Report by Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 15, CANA—There was a noticeable increase in security at the headquarters of the Guyana Elections Commission here on Friday, following two reported sabotage attempts. All gates and entrances to the building were now being manned by uniformed policemen and plainclothes detectives who were demanding persons seeking entry to show identification. Inside, policemen were stationed on each of the three floors.

The commission is preparing for general elections on December 16. Commission Chairman Rudy Collins told CANA he was "very pleased" with the new security arrangements in the wake of the sabotage which has caused an estimated U.S. 40,000 dollars in damage to the commission's computers earlier this week.

Officials have accused two unidentified men of tampering with wires in the building's junction box. This was blamed for a power surge which caused the damage to the computers. The men reportedly posed as electricians.

"There is reason to believe that it was a deliberate attempt because the surge went to a particular room in the building, (but) the important thing is that the data stored in the computers was saved," Collins told CANA. "There is reason to speculate that the intention of the person, or persons was to wipe out the data," he added.

President Desmond Hoyte accused agents of the opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) here for "organising" the alleged sabotage. Speaking to reporters shortly after registering the ruling People's National Congress' [PNC] 65 election candidates on Thursday, Hoyte said the sabotage attempt was aimed at delaying the election.

Three PCD parties have announced a boycott of the election because they are not happy numerous flaws in the voters list can be corrected in time for the election. The commission, however, has promised to do so.

Seven parties registered for the poll on Thursday, nomination day. The opposition parties, however, said they were doing so under protest. Guyana's electoral process has been plagued by controversy over the years with opposition parties repeatedly accusing the PNC government of remaining in power through electoral fraud. The PNC has always denied the charges.